



# Charter Commission Meeting

May 4, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Fridley Civic Campus 7071 University Avenue NE

---

## Agenda

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

### Approval of Agenda

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of April 6, 2026 Joint Charter Commission and City Council Meeting Minutes

### Administrative Matters

2. Letter from Mayor Ostwald
3. Prospective Commissioner Interviews

### Old Business

### New Business

### Future Meeting Topics/Communications

4. Future Meeting Topics

### Adjournment

---

#### Accessibility Notice:

- If you need free interpretation or translation assistance, please contact City staff.
- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntawv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cove neeg ua hauj lwm.
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact [CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov) or (763) 572-3450.



# AGENDA REPORT

---

**Meeting Date:** May 4, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Approval of April 6, 2026 Joint Charter Commission and City Council Meeting Minutes

---

## Background

---

Attached are the minutes from the April 6, 2026 Joint Charter Commission and City Council meeting for the Commission's consideration.

## Recommendation

---

Staff recommend the approval of the April 6, 2026 Joint Charter Commission and City Council meeting minutes.

## Attachments and Other Resources

---

1. April 6, 2026 Joint Charter Commission and City Council Meeting Minutes

### Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



# Joint City Council and Charter Commission Meeting

April 6, 2026

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

---

## Minutes

### **Call to Order**

Chair Bremener called the Charter Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Present**

Commissioners Barre, Bremener, Findell, Gardner, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Linton, A. Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad, Schmitz, Smith

### **Absent**

R. Nelson, Seefeld

### **Others Present**

Dave Ostwald, Mayor

Councilmembers Luke Cardona, Ryan Evanson, Ann Bolkom, Ryan Evanson

Wally Wysopal, City Manager

Melissa Moore, Assistant City Manager

Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk

Avonna Starck, Resident

Anna Pribula, Resident

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Barre.

Upon a voice all vote with all commissioners voting aye, Chair Bremener declared the motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1. Approval of February 2, 2026 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes and Approval of March 2, 2026 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes by Commissioner Karnopp, Seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Upon a voice all vote with all commissioners voting aye, Chair Bremener declared the motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative Matters**

## 2. Commission Appreciation Dinner

Chair Bremener reminded Commissioners that RSVP's were due for the Commission Appreciation Dinner to be held April 20 at Springbrook Nature Center.

## 3. Appreciation to Commissioner Kranz

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Commissioner Ted Kranz for his many years of service as this was his final meeting as member of the Charter Commission.

## 4. Commission Vacancy and Prospective Commissioner Interviews

With Commissioner Kranz stepping down, there is a vacancy on the Commission. Staff have received applications from four interested individuals who will be invited to the May Charter Commission meeting to be interviewed. Chair Bremener stated that after this opening is filled, the Commission will begin to look at the process for interviewing and selecting candidates for the Commission and how potential applicants are retained.

**New Business**

## 5. Chapter 5 Presentation and Discussion with the City Council

Chair Bremener gave a presentation to the City Council explaining the rationale on the proposed changes to Chapter 5. City Council members asked questions. Mayor Ostwald said that the City Council will discuss the Commission's presentation and report at an upcoming City Council Conference meeting. Mayor Ostwald stated that they will reach back out to the Commission with further questions and what they think the next steps will be.

## 6. Discussion with the City Council

The Commission and the City Council had a discussion on some of the questions Commissioners had regarding the Council's vision and what projects are happening in the City. Commissioners also asked the Council if they want to see a different process for Charter amendments. Council members felt that a discussion like the one held at this meeting is helpful and otherwise see no need for change.

**Future Meeting Topics/Communications**

## 6. Future Meeting Topics

- Candidate Interview Process and application
- Next Chapter to Review – Chapter 6 and Chapter 2
- Commission Onboarding Manual
- Meeting schedule cadence

**Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Kranz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Rolstad.

Upon a voice all vote with all commissioners voting aye, Chair Bremener declared the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



# AGENDA REPORT

---

**Meeting Date:** May 4, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Letter from Mayor Oswald

---

## Background

---

Mayor Oswald sent all Charter Commissioners a letter thanking everyone for the joint Charter Commission and City Council meeting in April. These were mailed via U.S. Mail; a copy is attached to this agenda as well.

## Recommendation

---

## Attachments and Other Resources

---

1. Mayor Oswald Letter to Commissioners 4-10-2026

### Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



# Fridley Civic Campus

**Dear Chair Bremener and Charter Commission members,**

**Thank you for hosting the joint meeting with the City Council on April 6, we appreciate your time and dedication to community service. Positive, honest conversations are necessary in building lasting relationships with our commissioners and establishing trust between both groups. As with our last joint meeting, your commitment to custodianship of the charter is commendable.**

**Thank you for taking the time to develop the presentation and clarifying your position regarding Chapter 5 edits. The council is grateful for your advocacy and will discuss the presented work at a future conference meeting. The upcoming schedule has been set for several meetings but we will take it in a timely manner to provide direction moving forward.**

**It was a pleasure having dialog regarding the direction and updates the city currently is working on. By sharing our plans and vision, we hope to provide the charter commission with a clear path forward with your mission. Hearing your questions and concerns is beneficial for the council's decision making process.**

**Thank you all again for your time, dedication and thoughtfulness in the performance of your role in local government.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ostwald', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**David Ostwald**

**Mayor**



# AGENDA REPORT

---

**Meeting Date:** May 4, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Prospective Commissioner Interviews

---

## Background

---

On February 2, 2026, the Charter Commission accepted the resignation of Commissioner Kranz, resulting in one vacancy.

Attached are interest forms from Richard Coleman, Gary Olsen and Saynab Jama, three residents who would like to serve on the Charter Commission. Some of the applicant data is considered private data on individuals and has been redacted pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 13.601 subd. 3. All applicants are expected to attend this evening's meeting and have submitted supplemental questionnaires (attached) as has been customary for the Commission.

As a reminder, State law authorizes the district court with the authority to appoint members to the Commission. The Chief Judge may consider a recommendation for appointment by the Commission. Minnesota Statute § 410.05 subd. 3 states: "A city council, a charter commission, or the petitioners requesting the appointment of a charter commission may submit to the court the names of eligible nominees which the district court may consider in making appointments to the charter commission." It has been Fridley's past practice for the commission to meet with prospective commissioners and make a recommendation to the court for appointment.

Upon recommendation of the Commission, staff will communicate with the Chief Judge, who will make an appointment.

## Recommendation

---

Staff recommend the Commission discourse with the three applicants. Staff recommend the Commission make a motion to recommend one applicant for appointment to the Chief Judge.

## Attachments and Other Resources

---

1. Richard Coleman Application
2. Richard Coleman Supplemental Questionnaire
3. Gary Olsen Application

4. Gary Olsen Supplemental Questionnaire
5. Saynab Jama Application
6. Saynab Jama Charter Commission Questionnaire

#### **Vision Statement**

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: City Commission Interest Form - Richard Coleman  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:09:24 PM



## City Commission Interest Form

Name	Richard Coleman
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Number of Years/Months as a Resident of Fridley	30 years 8 months
Employer	Self Employed
Employer Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Employer Email	[REDACTED]
Charter Commission	1 / 6
Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA)	5 / 6
Planning Commission	3 / 6
Environmental Quality & Energy Commission	5 / 6
Parks & Recreation Commission	4 / 6
Public Arts Commission	6 / 6
Prior experience on City commissions or other volunteer boards:	Have served on the Elder Board of Fridley Evangelical Free Church for 9 years and currently serving another 3 year term.
Prior related work experience:	As a retired US Army Reserve Sergeant Major (E-9), I've led four separate commands in the senior enlisted position, these units ranged from 200 to over 3,000 service members. Prior

senior noncommissioned officers position allowed ever increasing responsibilities, my across 33 of military service, has prepared me to work with the greatest variety of people, projects, objectives (missions).

Civic, professional and community activities:

Current Fridley-Columbia Heights Rotary Club member and volunteering as a Fridley HS STRIVE scholarship fundraiser and mentor.

As a certified information security professional, I teach community education classes in Fridley for citizens, small businesses and non-profits to inform them of free and very low-cost options that can help protect them from cyber threats.

Why do you want to be on a Fridley commission?

Since retiring from the US Army Reserves and switching from leading large corporate information security and finance teams to work for myself, I prioritizing civic involvement as part of my connection to the broader community.

What strengths, skills and abilities do you believe you will add to the commission?

Strengths include my long-term home ownership in Fridley (30+ years), raising three children, who all attended and graduated from the Fridley public school system, and leadership skills developed from both the military and civilian employment. My final corporate roll was as the Accounts Payable Manager for one of the largest MN employers where I oversaw \$2 billion in annual spending (\$50M USD/week), requiring significant, fast-paced analytic and managerial decision making.

Do you have other commitments that may impact your ability to attend commission meetings (e.g., travel for work, etc.)?

No

Additional comments

I have a very flexible schedule and would love the opportunity to strengthen the City of Fridley for the next generation.

Did a current City Council member, advisory commissioner or member of staff recommend/refer you apply for a City commission?

Yes

If so, who?

Peter Borman

Please acknowledge if you have read the application notice.

Yes, I have read and understand the notice.

---

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

# **Charter Commission Candidate Questionnaire**

**Candidate Name: Richard Coleman**

## **1. Are you available for winter meetings (the months of January through May)?**

Yes. I am available to attend winter meetings and am able to commit the necessary time to participate fully during the January through May meeting period.

## **2. If you are appointed, what would your expectations be?**

If appointed, I would expect to serve as a careful, independent, and engaged member of the Charter Commission. I would approach my responsibilities with the intent to thoughtfully review charter provisions, participate constructively in discussions, and evaluate recommendations based on clarity, legality, and the long-term interests of Fridley residents. I view this role as one of public trust and believe it requires diligence, preparation, and respect for the Commission's advisory responsibilities under Minnesota law.

## **3. Does your job require travel that may inhibit your participation in evening meetings?**

No. My current work and personal schedule do not require regular travel that would prevent my participation in evening meetings.

## **4. Why do you want to be on the Charter Commission? What could you bring to the table?**

I am a 30-year resident of Fridley with a strong interest in municipal governance, civic responsibility, and the proper role of a city charter in serving and protecting the community. I believe a city charter should be clear, lawful, and structured to support accountable, effective local government.

I bring a background rooted in public service, leadership, and thoughtful decision-making. I am a member of the Fridley/Columbia Heights Rotary Club, a volunteer STRIVE mentor to Fridley High School seniors, a neighborhood block captain, and a current elder board member at Fridley Grace Evangelical Free

Church. In addition, I am a retired United States Army Reservist, having served 10 years of active duty and an additional 23 years in local reserve units, including five years of mobilizations following September 11, 2001.

I retired at the rank of Sergeant Major (SGM/E-9) and had the honor of serving as the senior enlisted leader for units ranging from approximately 100 to over 1,000 service members. These experiences reinforced for me that well-governed organizations—whether military units, churches, schools, or cities—depend on accountability, clarity of purpose, and principled leadership. I would bring that same mindset to the Charter Commission.

## **5. Are you familiar with what the City Charter is?**

Yes. I understand the City Charter to be the foundational governing document of the city, functioning much like a local constitution. It establishes the form of government, outlines powers and responsibilities, and provides a framework to ensure lawful, transparent, and accountable municipal operation. I am committed to reviewing the charter with care and in accordance with Minnesota law.

## **6. Is there anything else or any other comments you would like to share with the Commission?**

I would approach service on the Charter Commission with diligence, neutrality, and respect for differing viewpoints. My goal would be to help ensure that any charter recommendations are clear, lawful, and responsive to the needs of Fridley residents. I value civil discussion, careful analysis, and decisions grounded in the public interest, and I would be honored to serve the community in this capacity.

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: City Commission Interest Form - Gary Olsen  
**Date:** Sunday, January 05, 2025 1:27:24 PM



## City Commission Interest Form

Name	Gary Olsen
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Number of Years/Months as a Resident of Fridley	12
Employer	Showcase Lawn Care
Employer Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Employer Address	[REDACTED]
Employer Email	[REDACTED]
Charter Commission	1 / 6
Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA)	1 / 6
Planning Commission	1 / 6
Environmental Quality & Energy Commission	3 / 6
Parks & Recreation Commission	3 / 6
Public Arts Commission	4 / 6
Prior experience on City commissions or other volunteer boards:	I unfortunately don't have experience with City commissions or other volunteer boards. I feel that I have the right ambition and interest to help Fridley move forward to a positive future.

Prior related work experience:	Operations manager of showcase Lawn Care since 2018 also founded and have successfully ran Anoka Lawn Care since 2018. These two companies have a Synergy that help them to be successful. I believe the skills I have to make that successful I could bring to the city commissions and its needs.
Civic, professional and community activities:	I often donate time to elderly neighbors who can no longer take care of their lawn or snow removal and help provide them Independence just a little bit longer.
Why do you want to be on a Fridley commission?	I want to learn more and be more active in what's going on in my local politics. I would like to be part of the solution.
What strengths, skills and abilities do you believe you will add to the commission?	As a business owner and many years of upper management skills I feel I possess the tools needed to look at what's happening locally, having an open discussion on Solutions to the Future and helping to implement those solutions.
Do you have other commitments that may impact your ability to attend commission meetings (e.g., travel for work, etc.)?	Yes
If yes, how often?	Occasionally
Additional comments	The businesses that I am a part of are in the snow removal industry and could possibly affect my ability to make it to a meeting. I'll do my best to minimize such interruptions.
Did a current City Council member, advisory commissioner or member of staff recommend/refer you apply for a City commission?	Yes
If so, who?	David Ostwald
Member email	Dave.Ostwald@FridleyMN.gov
Reference 1 - Email	Scarlettkitty81@yahoo.com
Reference 1 - Name	Katie Jacobson
Reference 2 - Name	Randy Valtinson
Reference 2 - Email	randy@valtinson.com
Reference 3 - Name	Mandy Meisner
Reference 3 - Email	mandy.meisner@anokacountymn.gov9
Please acknowledge if you have read the	Yes, I have read and understand the notice.

application notice.

---

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



# Charter Commission Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Gary Olsen

1. Are you available for winter meetings (the months of January through May)?

Yes, I have schedule flexibility and will be available to attend meetings during this time.

2. If you are appointed, what would your expectations be?

I would expect open communication, structured agendas, and collaborative discussions that allow diverse perspectives to be heard. I'm looking to contribute meaningfully while learning from others, and to help ensure the Charter remains reflective of our community's evolving needs. I hope to serve with integrity, consistency, and respect for both the process and fellow members

3. Does your job require travel, that may inhibit your participation in evening meetings?

No, my work is local and I have control over my schedule. I am confident in my ability to attend evening meetings reliably.

4. Why do you want to be on the Charter Commission? What could you bring to the table?

Fridley has been my home for many years, and I care deeply about the direction of our city. I want to contribute my experience as a small business owner, problem-solver, and engaged resident to support thoughtful planning and policy review. I bring a solutions-oriented mindset, strong communication skills, and firsthand knowledge of how local government decisions impact both residents and small businesses. I'm committed to fairness, transparency, and representing the everyday voices in our community.

5. Are you familiar with what the City Charter is?

Yes. I understand the City Charter serves as Fridley's local constitution, defining how the city government operates, distributes powers, and outlines procedures for governance. I also understand the importance of reviewing and updating it to ensure it remains relevant, clear, and in alignment with state law and community priorities.

6. Is there anything else or any other comments you would like to share with the Commission?

I appreciate the opportunity to be considered. While I haven't served on a formal city commission before, I've been deeply involved in local projects, resident outreach, and neighborhood infrastructure through my work and community partnerships. I'm committed to showing up, contributing thoughtfully, and working respectfully with others to ensure our Charter reflects both the values and practical needs of the people of Fridley.

**From:** [Jotform](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: City Commission Interest Form - Saynab Jama  
**Date:** Sunday, December 08, 2024 8:06:16 PM



## City Commission Interest Form

Name	Saynab Jama
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Number of Years/Months as a Resident of Fridley	6 years and 7months
Employer	U.S Department of Health and Human Services
Employer Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Employer Email	[REDACTED]
Charter Commission	1 / 6
Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA)	1 / 6
Planning Commission	5 / 6
Environmental Quality & Energy Commission	1 / 6
Parks & Recreation Commission	1 / 6
Public Arts Commission	5 / 6
Prior experience on City commissions or other volunteer boards:	<p>While I haven't served on a city commission specifically, I have gained valuable experience volunteering in different community-focused roles that have equipped me with skills useful for serving on a board or commission.</p> <p>At the hospital (Mercy Hospital - Fridley Campus), I volunteered in the patient services department, where I assisted in patient</p>

intake, provided emotional support to families, and helped coordinate communication between patients and healthcare teams. This role taught me the importance of active listening, empathy, and attention to detail, especially when working with diverse populations in a high-stress environment. It also allowed me to collaborate with healthcare professionals and other volunteers to ensure patients received timely and effective support, which is a skill I can bring to any board or commission that requires teamwork and community service.

Prior related work experience:

My prior work experience, particularly in my current role at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has equipped me with skills and knowledge that are highly relevant to serving on a commission. At HHS, I work on initiatives that require cross-departmental collaboration, data analysis, and the development of policies aimed at addressing community health needs. My role involves communicating complex information to a variety of stakeholders, from government officials to community organizations, which has given me insight into the importance of clear, inclusive decision-making processes.

Why do you want to be on a Fridley commission?

I am passionate about contributing to the communities where I live, and I believe that serving on a Fridley commission would provide an excellent opportunity to make a meaningful impact on local policies and initiatives. Fridley is a vibrant and diverse community, and I admire the city's commitment to fostering a strong sense of civic engagement and inclusion.

My interest in serving on a commission stems from my desire to help address the unique challenges and opportunities facing Fridley. Whether it's through supporting sustainable growth, improving public services, or advocating for equitable access to resources, I want to use my skills to contribute to the development of solutions that benefit all residents. Additionally, I value the chance to work collaboratively with other members of the commission, the city council, and community members to ensure that decisions reflect the diverse needs and priorities of Fridley's population. I am excited about the prospect of contributing my energy, skills, and perspectives to Fridley's growth and continued success.

What strengths, skills and abilities do you believe you will add to the commission?

I believe I would bring a combination of strengths, skills, and abilities that would allow me to contribute effectively to the commission's work and help Fridley continue to grow and thrive.

**Strong Communication Skills:** Throughout my professional and volunteer experiences, I've developed the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with diverse groups, from community members to stakeholders. Whether it's listening to concerns, presenting ideas, or facilitating discussions, I know how important it is to ensure all voices are heard. I would bring this ability to the commission, ensuring that decisions reflect a broad range of perspectives.

**Collaboration and Teamwork:** I thrive in team environments and have experience working in cross-functional teams to achieve common goals. As a volunteer and in my current position, I've worked closely with others to organize events, manage projects,

and implement initiatives. I understand the importance of collaboration, compromise, and building consensus, which is key to working effectively on a commission.

**Community Engagement and Advocacy:** Having volunteered in both healthcare and educational settings, I have a strong understanding of the importance of engaging with the community and advocating for underrepresented groups. I would use my ability to connect with residents to ensure the commission is responsive to the diverse needs of Fridley's population, especially those who may not always have a voice in local governance.

Do you have other commitments that may impact your ability to attend commission meetings (e.g., travel for work, etc.)?

No

Did a current City Council member, advisory commissioner or member of staff recommend/refer you apply for a City commission?

No

Please acknowledge if you have read the application notice.

Yes, I have read and understand the notice.

---

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



## Charter Commission Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you available for winter meetings (the months of January through May)?
2. If you are appointed, what would your expectations be?
3. Does your job require travel, that may inhibit your participation in evening meetings?
4. Why do you want to be on the Charter Commission? What could you bring to the table?
5. Are you familiar with what the City Charter is?
6. Is there anything else or any other comments you would like to share with the Commission?

Please submit this form to [cityclerk@fridleymn.gov](mailto:cityclerk@fridleymn.gov). Thank you.



# AGENDA REPORT

---

**Meeting Date:** May 4, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Future Meeting Topics

---

## Background

---

Future meeting topics requested by Commissioners:

- Candidate interview process
- Next chapter to review: Chapter 2 for cleaning up of language and ordinances, Chapter 6
- Commission Onboarding Manual
- Meeting schedule cadence

## Recommendation

---

## Attachments and Other Resources

---

### **Vision Statement**

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.