



# Charter Commission Meeting

January 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.  
Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue NE

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## Agenda

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 13.02 the January 6, 2026 meeting will be a hybrid meeting. Commissioner Rick Nelson will be attending via Zoom. Virtual: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83759502304?pwd=7fqUHx78k4UlsdTLxIF3ai6s5g9YyZ.1>

### **Call to Order**

### **Roll Call**

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1. Approval of November 3, 2025 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

### **Administrative Matters**

2. 2026 Nominating Committee
3. Updated Member List
4. Upcoming Terms Expiring: Greg Gardner and Ted Kranz

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

5. League of Minnesota Cities Charter Commission Training
6. Discuss Letter from Mayor Ostwald Regarding Chapter 5
7. Subcommittee to document logic of proposed Chapter 5 changes

### **Future Meeting Topics/Communications**

8. Future Meeting Topics

### **Adjournment**

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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



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**Meeting Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Approval of November 3, 2025 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

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## Background

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Attached are the minutes from November 3, 2025 for the Commission's consideration.

## Financial Impact

## Recommendation

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Staff recommend the approval of the November 3, 2025 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes.

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## Attachments and Other Resources

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1. Charter Commission Minutes 11-3-2025

### Vision Statement

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



Charter Commission Meeting  
November 3, 2025  
7:00 PM  
Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

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## **Minutes**

### **Call to Order**

Secretary Barre called the Charter Commission meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### **Present**

Mohamed Barre  
Brad Bremener  
Donald Findell  
Greg Gardner  
Nikki Karnopp  
Steve Kisner  
Ted Kranz  
Dave Linton  
Audrey Nelson  
Rick Nelson (Remote attendance, joined at 7:10)  
Pam Reynolds  
Valerie Rolstad  
Doug Schmitz

### **Absent**

Kathy Smith

### **Others Present**

Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
Dave Ostwald, Mayor  
Patrick Vescio, Councilmember At Large  
Gary Olsen, Charter Commission Applicant  
Natividad Seefeld, Charter Commission Applicant

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner Karnopp, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Upon a roll call vote, with Commissioners Barre, Bremener, Findell, Gardner, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Linton, Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Schmitz, voting aye, Secretary Barre declared the motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1. Approval of October 6, 2025, Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the October 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes by Commissioner Karnopp. Seconded by Commissioner Rolstad.

Upon a roll call vote, with Commissioners Barre, Bremener, Findell, Gardner, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Linton, Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Schmitz, voting aye, Secretary Barre declared the motion carried unanimously.

### **Administrative Matters**

2. Election to Vacant Officer of Vice Chair.

At the October meeting, the Commission voted Vice Chair Nelson to the vacant spot of Chair. This left an opening for Vice Chair. Commissioner Kisner nominated Commissioner Bremener for Vice Chair. Commissioner Bremener declined and nominated Commissioner Karnopp, seconded by Commissioner Rolstad. No other nominations were received.

Upon a roll call vote, with Commissioners Barre, Bremener, Findell, Gardner, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Linton, Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Schmitz, voting aye, Secretary Barre declared the motion carried unanimously.

3. 2026 Charter Commission Dates

Ms. Kondrick informed the Commission that the official City Calendar with proposed Charter Commission Dates was approved by the City Council and that a copy has been provided in the packet for Commissioners.

4. Prospective Member Discussion

Commissioners met with two candidates for the open seat on the Commission, Gary Olsen and Natividad Seefeld. After the Commissioners interviewed the candidates, a discussion was held that both candidates were qualified and would be a good fit. A proposal was made to use a ballot to indicate which candidate would be the top choice with the second person being asked if they would allow their information retained and be appointed at the next opening.

Motion to use a ballot to indicate choice with the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice asked if they would like to be appointed at the next opening by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Kranz.

Upon a roll call vote, with Commissioners Barre, Bremener, Findell, Gardner, Kranz, Linton, A. Nelson, R. Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Schmitz, voting aye, and Commissioners Kisner and Karnopp voting nay Vice Chair Karnopp declared the motion carried unanimously.

After Commissioners indicated their respective choices by ballot, Ms. Kondrick read the results out loud into the record as Chair Nelson was attending the meeting remotely. The results were as follows:

Barre: Gary Olsen  
Bremener: Natividad Seefeld  
Findell: Natividad Seefeld  
Gardner: Gary Olsen  
Karnopp: Natividad Seefeld  
Kisner: Natividad Seefeld  
Kranz: Gary Olsen  
Linton: Natividad Seefeld  
A. Nelson: Natividad Seefeld  
R. Nelson: Natividad Seefeld  
Reynolds: Natividad Seefeld  
Rolstad: Gary Olsen  
Schmitz: Gary Olsen

The majority selected Natividad Seefeld. Ms. Kondrick stated she would send the recommendation for her appointment to the Chief Judge and ask Mr. Olsen if he would be willing to have his information retained for the next opening.

### **Old Business**

There were no items under Old Business.

### **New Business**

#### 5. Chapter 2: Legal and Staff Reviews

Ms. Kondrick stated that a copy of Chapter 2 with comments from the City Attorney and City Staff was included in the packet along with Commissioner Reynolds' proposed language change for section 2.013. Commissioner Reynolds stated she wished to withdraw her request to review this section at this time and would like to do further research.

Motion to remove Chapter 2 from discussion and review by Chair Nelson, Seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

Upon a roll call vote, with Commissioners Barre, Bremener, Findell, Gardner, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Linton, A. Nelson, R. Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Schmitz, voting aye, Vice Chair Karnopp declared the motion carried unanimously.

#### 6. Chapter 6: Legal and Staff Reviews

Ms. Kondrick informed the Commission that the City Attorney and Staff reviewed Chapter 6 and that a copy of suggested revisions was included in the packet. Ms. Kondrick stated that in the interest of time it may be best to table the discussion until January.

Motion to table Chapter 6 Review until January by Commissioner Rolstad, Seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Upon a roll call vote, with Commissioners Barre, Bremener, Findell, Gardner, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Linton, A. Nelson, R. Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Schmitz, voting aye, Vice Chair Karnopp declared the motion carried unanimously.

### **Future Meeting Topics/Communications**

#### 7. Future Meeting Topics

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

### **Adjournment**

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

Upon a roll call vote, with Commissioners Barre, Bremener, Findell, Gardner, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Linton, A. Nelson, R. Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Schmitz, voting aye, Vice Chair Karnopp declared the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

# AGENDA REPORT



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**Meeting Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** 2026 Nominating Committee

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## Background

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Section VII of the Charter Commission’s Bylaws call for the Chair to appoint a Nominating Committee of three or more members who will report the nomination of one or more candidates for each office. The committee’s written report will be transmitted to the Commission with the February 2, 2026 agenda. An Election of Officers will take place at the Commission’s March 2, 2026 Annual Meeting.

The current officers are: Rick Nelson, Chair; Nikki Karnopp, Vice Chair; Mohammed Barre, Secretary.

## Financial Impact

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## Recommendation

Staff recommend Chair Nelson appoint three or more Commissioners to the 2026 Nominating Committee. Staff recommend the Nominating Committee submit a written report to staff to include with the February 2, 2026 agenda.

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## Attachments and Other Resources

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### Vision Statement

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

# AGENDA REPORT



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**Meeting Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Updated Member List

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## Background

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Attached is an Updated Member List.

## Financial Impact

## Recommendation

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None.

## Attachments and Other Resources

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1. 2026 Fridley Charter Commission Member List

### Vision Statement

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



# Charter Commission Membership

Name/Address	Ward	Phone	Email	Appointed	Term Exp.
Mohamed Barre 7509 Lyric Lane NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	(h) 612-242-1513 (w) 612-348-4997	Junlay99@aol.com	02-06-23	02-06-27
Brad Bremener 6831 East River Road Fridley, MN 55432	3	(h) 507-402-5634	Brad.bremener@gmail.com	1-13-25	1-13-29
Donald Findell 6850 Siverts Lane Fridley, MN 55432	2	(h) 763-571-0467 (c) 612-867-9954	donfinder@aol.com	06-16-97 02-21-01 05-04-05 02-04-09 05-24-13 05-03-17 05-01-21 05-01-25 05-01-25	05-11-01 05-01-05 05-01-09 05-01-13 05-01-17 05-01-21 05-01-25 05-01-29
Gregory Gardner 5829 Hackmann Ave. N.E. Fridley, MN 55432	2	(h) 763-571-8821	gardnergregg@msn.com	03-01-22	03-01-26
Nikki Karnopp 482 Rice Creek Terrace N.E. Fridley, MN 55432	1	612-709-6452	nikkikarnopp@gmail.com	02-03-20 02-03-24	02-03-24 02-03-28
Steven Kisner 5871 W. Moore Lake Drive Fridley, MN 55432	2	763-300-8888	spkisner@yahoo.com	01-10-23	01-10-27
Ted Kranz 6701 Monroe Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55432	1	(h) 763-571-4387	tkranz1@comcast.net	08-11-06 03-29-10 10-21-14 04-06-18 04-22-22	04-22-10 04-22-14 04-22-18 04-22-22 04-22-26
Dave Linton 6521 Clover Place NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	(h) 763-571-7431 (c) 763-843-3415	Dwlinton99@gmail.com	05-20-24	05-20-28
Audrey Nelson 250 61 <sup>st</sup> Avenue NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	763-574-1388	audmnelson@gmail.com	01-10-24	01-10-28
Rick Nelson 4624 2 ½ Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55421	3	(c) 612-963-2487	rickvan16@hotmail.com	05-12-11 02-13-12 05-27-16 02-21-20 02-21-24	02-13-12 02-21-16 02-21-20 02-21-24 02-21-28



## Charter Commission Membership

Pam Reynolds 1241 Norton Avenue N.E. Fridley, MN 55432	2	(c) 763-222-9386	fnpam@hotmail.com	05-12-05 03-22-07 04-04-11 05-04-15 11-04-19 10-02-23	05-01-07 05-01-11 05-01-15 05-01-19 11-04-23 10-02-27
Valerie Rolstad 1100 Lynde Drive Fridley, MN 55432	2	(c) 612-799-5993	valerier13@gmail.com	02-15-17 05-03-17 05-01-21 05-01-25	05-01-17 05-01-21 05-01-25 05-01-29
Douglas Schmitz 7311 Tempo Terrace NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	763-780-0541	schmitzdouglas@gmail.com	01-10-24	01-10-28
Natividad Seefeld 1106 Onondaga Street NE Fridley, MN 55432	2	763-494-1119	<a href="mailto:Mexicali3367@yahoo.com">Mexicali3367@yahoo.com</a>	11-03-25	11-03-29
Kathy Smith 7350 Melody Drive NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	612-590-4721	ksmith1883@gmail.com	05-20-24	05-20-28

# AGENDA REPORT



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**Meeting Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Upcoming Terms Expiring: Greg Gardner and Ted Kranz

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## Background

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Commissioner Greg Gardner's appointment to the Fridley Charter Commission (Commission) expires March 1, 2026. Commissioner Ted Kranz's appointment to the Commission expires April 28, 2026.

## Financial Impact

## Recommendation

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If Commissioners Gardner and Kranz wish to be reappointed, a motion to recommend to their reappointment to the Chief Judge would be required.

If either Commissioner does not wish to be reappointed, a motion to declare an opening on the Commission would be in order.

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## Attachments and Other Resources

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### Vision Statement

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

# AGENDA REPORT



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**Meeting Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Melissa Moore, Assistant City Manager  
**Title:** League of Minnesota Cities Charter Commission Training

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## Background

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The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) offers a Charter Assistance Program, providing neutral information and analysis to cities related to charter-related policy issues. More information on the program may be read online: [lmc.org/resources/charter-assistance-program/](http://lmc.org/resources/charter-assistance-program/).

In May 2024, an LMC attorney provided an information session with the Commission. With several new members on the Commission, staff recommended another information session. Chair Nelson directed staff to coordinate with LMC for a training on this evening's agenda. LMC attorney, Josephine Rosene, will present to the Commission and answer any questions members may have.

## Financial Impact

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## Recommendation

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## Attachments and Other Resources

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### Vision Statement

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# AGENDA REPORT



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**Meeting Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Melissa Moore, Assistant City Manager  
**Title:** Discuss Letter from Mayor Ostwald Regarding Chapter 5

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## Background

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On November 10, 2025 staff presented Ordinance No. 1435 to the City Council for consideration of a first reading. The ordinance incorporated the Commission's various proposed revisions to Chapter 5 of the City Charter. The Council unanimously voted down the first reading of the ordinance (Councilmember Vescio was not in attendance).

On November 19, 2025 Mayor Ostwald mailed the attached letter to the Commission. Chair Nelson asked staff to place the letter on this evening's agenda for discussion.

## Financial Impact

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## Recommendation

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## Attachments and Other Resources

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1. Mayor Ostwald Letter to Charter Commission 11-19-2025

### Vision Statement

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



# Fridley Civic Campus

Dear Rick,

I am reaching out to re-affirm my interest in dialogue regarding chapter 5 of the Charter, specifically the section concerning signature threshold limits for petitions. I am not aware of any concerns from the Council regarding the remainder of the amendment as they are non-substantive in nature.

It remains my firm commitment that creating opportunities to understand the reasons for the lowering of the signature petition threshold is in our collective best interest. I and those Council members present at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were unaware of any residents asking for such a change other than those on the Commission. That being the case it was our duty as elected representatives to raise this issue and ask for more discussion with the Commission.

Unfortunately, the first reading of an ordinance is not the most appropriate time to have that discussion.

I realize your next meeting is in January and that you may already have a full schedule. So, I defer to your discretion for the best time to meet.

Sincerely,

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

David Ostwald, Mayor

Cc: Charter Commissioners, City Council, Wally Wysopal, Melissa Moore

# AGENDA REPORT



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**Meeting Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Subcommittee to document logic of proposed Chapter 5 changes

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## Background

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Commissioner Smith has proposed creating a sub-committee in compliance with the Open Meeting Law, to work on documenting the logic of the proposed changes to Chapter 5. The sub-committee's work is to be reviewed by the Charter Committee when completed.

## Financial Impact

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## Recommendation

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## Attachments and Other Resources

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### Vision Statement

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

# AGENDA REPORT



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**Meeting Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Charter Commission  
**Submitted By:** Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk  
**Title:** Future Meeting Topics

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## Background

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Future meeting topics requested by commissioners:

- Joint meeting with the City Council February 6, 2026
- Candidate interview process
- Selection of next Chapter for review
- Commission Onboarding Manual
- Meeting schedule cadence
- Chapter 6

## Financial Impact

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## Recommendation

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None.

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## Attachments and Other Resources

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### Vision Statement

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