



Charter Commission Meeting

September 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
7071 University Avenue NE

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of May 4, 2026 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

Administrative Matters

2. Updated Member List

Old Business

3. Chapter 5 Update

New Business

4. Commission Interview Process

Future Meeting Topics/Communications

5. Future Meeting Topics

Adjournment

Accessibility Notice:

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A solicitud, se darán adaptaciones para permitir que las personas con discapacidades o las que necesiten servicios de interpretación participen en los servicios, programas o actividades de la Ciudad de Fridley. Si necesita un intérprete o requiere ayudas auxiliares, comuníquese con la Ciudad al 763-572-3450 al menos cinco días hábiles de antelación para asegurar que se puedan hacer los arreglos.

Markii la codsado, adeegyo caawimaad ah ayaa la siin doonaa dadka naafada ah ama kuwa u baahan adeegga turjumaadda si ay uga qayb qaataan adeegyada, barnaamijyada, ama hawlaha magaalada Fridley. Haddii aad u baahan tahay turjubaan ama qalabka caawiya dadka naafada ah, kala xiriir Magaalada taleefankan 763-572-3450

ugu yaraan shan maalmood oo shaqo kahor, si loo hubiyo in qabanqaabada lagu sameeyo.

Raws li kev thov, yuav muaj kev pab tshwj xeeb rau cov neeg xiam oob qhab lossis cov uas xav tau kev pab txhais lus kom lawv tuaj koom tau nrog Nroog Fridley (City of Fridley service) cov kev pab cuam, cov kev kawm, los sis cov dej num sib txawv. Yog koj xav tau neeg txhais lus los sis xav tau lwm yam kev pab, thov hu rau lub Nroog ntawm 763-572-3450 kom tsis pub tsawg tshaj tsib hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej, xwv kom peb thiaj li npaj tau rau koj raws li lub sij hawm ntawv.

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: September 8, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Approval of May 4, 2026 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

Background

Attached are the minutes from the May 4, 2026 Charter Commission meeting for the Commission's consideration.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the approval of the May 4, 2026 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

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1. May 4, 2026 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

Vision Statement

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



Charter Commission Meeting

May 4, 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 7:03 p.m.

Present

Commissioners Bremener, Gardner, Kisner, A. Nelson, R. Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad, Schmitz, Smith

Absent

Barre, Findell, Karnopp, Linton, Seefeld

Others Present

Gary Olsen, Applicant

Richard Coleman, Applicant

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner R. Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Rolstad.

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Motion to approve meeting minutes with correction of adding Councilmember Vescio's attendance and removing extra listing of Councilmember Evanson's name by Commissioner Reynolds, Seconded by Commissioner Rolstad.

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

Administrative Matters

2. Letter From Mayor Ostwald

Chair Bremener asked for feedback on the joint meeting with the City Council and how Commissioners felt about Mayor Ostwald's letter.

Motion for Chair Bremener to draft a letter responding to the Council by Commissioner R. Nelson. Seconded by Commissioner Rolstad.

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

3. Prospective Commissioner Interviews

The Commission interviewed two candidates for the open seat vacated by Commissioner Kranz.

Motion to appoint Gary Olsen to the open seat on the Commission by Commissioner R. Nelson. Seconded by Commissioner Kisner.

Upon a voice call vote with seven commissioners voting aye, one voting nay and one abstaining, Chair Bremener declared the motion carried.

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

Motion to add Chapter 5 as number one topic by Commissioner Reynolds. Seconded by Commissioner Kisner.

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

Motion to add review of Chapter 3 by Commissioner Smith. Seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

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

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Reynolds 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 8:32 p.m.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 8, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Updated Member List

Background

Attached is an updated Member list.

Recommendation

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) 574-276-0485	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	(c) 901-517-3254	gardnergregg@msn.com	03-01-22 02-02-26	03-01-26 02-02-29
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
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 st Avenue NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	763-574-1388	audmnelson@gmail.com	01-10-24	01-10-28
Rick Nelson 4624 2 1/2 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 02-21-24	02-13-12 02-21-16 02-21-20 02-21-24 02-21-28
Gary Olsen 491 61 st Avenue Ne Fridley, MN 55432	1	763-377-3717	gary@anokalawn.com	05-05-26	05-05-30
Pam Reynolds 1241 Norton Avenue N.E.	2	(c) 763-222-9386	fnpam@hotmail.com	05-12-05 03-22-07 04-04-11	05-01-07 05-01-11 05-01-15

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Updated: 12-15-2025



Charter Commission Membership

Fridley, MN 55432				05-04-15 11-04-19 10-02-23	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	612-430-5055	schmitzdouglas@gmail.com	01-10-24	01-10-28
Natividad Seefeld 1106 Onondaga Street NE Fridley, MN 55432	2	763-494-1119	Mexicali3367@yahoo.com	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

Meeting Date: September 8, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Chapter 5 Update

Background

Chair Bremener will provide an update to the Commission on Chapter 5 and discussions with the City Council and City Manager.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

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1. June 22 City Council Conference Meeting Agenda Packet

Vision Statement

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



City Council Conference Meeting

June 22, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
7071 University Avenue NE

Agenda

1. Transportation Funding Requests - Status Update
 2. Chapter 5 of the City Charter, City Council Discussion
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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 22, 2026
Meeting Type: City Council Conference
Submitted By: Wally Wysopal, City Manager
Title: Chapter 5 of the City Charter, City Council Discussion

Background

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Council an opportunity to deliberate on the proposed amendments to Chapter 5 of the City Charter as recommended by the Charter Commission.

The Charter Commission spent approximately two years reviewing Chapter 5, which governs the initiative, referendum and recall powers reserved to the people of Fridley. In October 2025, the Commission formally recommended Ordinance No. 1435 to the City Council. The ordinance proposes language modernization throughout the chapter as well as a substantive reduction in the signature threshold required for initiative and referendum petitions from 15% to 5% of total votes cast in the last Presidential Election, a reduction of approximately 67%.

The City Council conducted a public hearing and first reading of Ordinance No. 1435 on November 10, 2025. Staff recommended the Council not approve the first reading. The City Manager's recommendation raised a broader question about the Commission's authority to make this particular change. While the Commission has the power to propose Charter amendments, that power is bounded by the Charter's own definition of the Commission's role limited to changes that "enable effective government operations that reflect the values of the voters." The City Manager noted that the Charter does not grant the Commission the authority to determine what those resident values are. That determination rests either with residents themselves through a petition, or with the City Council as the duly elected representatives of the voters. The Commission, as an appointed body, is intended to collaborate in that process, not to act as the sole arbiter of community values. In this case, neither the Council nor staff had received any indication from residents that the existing petition threshold was a concern, making the threshold reduction difficult to ground in a demonstrated expression of resident values. The Council did not approve the first reading.

Following the November meeting, Mayor Ostwald wrote to the Commission Chair, reaffirming the Council's interest in dialogue and clarifying that the Council's concern was limited to the signature threshold provisions, as the remainder of the proposed amendments were considered non-substantive.

The Commission invited the Council to a joint meeting held in April 2026. At that meeting, the Commission Chair walked through the history of Chapter 5 and explained the Commission's case for lowering the threshold. The Commission argued that gathering signatures under the

current requirement places too great a burden on residents, and that the existing threshold is unfairly higher than the 5% required by State law to amend the Charter itself. The goal of making the petition process easier is not a standard recognized by State law (M.S. Chapter 410) or the Charter as a basis for changing petition requirements. The Council should also weigh what a 5% threshold would mean in practice under that standard, a resident could initiate a petition with fewer signatures than the number of votes required to win a seat on the City Council, raising a fundamental question about the appropriate balance between direct citizen action and representative government in Fridley.

The purpose of this agenda item is to facilitate a discussion among the City Council related specifically to the reduction to the petition threshold.

Recommendation

Attachments and Other Resources

Vision Statement

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 8, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Commission Interview Process

Background

Chair Bremener would like the Commission to consider formation of a subcommittee to discuss the current interview and application process for potential Charter Commission members.

Recommendation

Staff recommend forming a subcommittee to discuss this topic and an update to be presented at the next meeting.

Attachments and Other Resources

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 8, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Future Meeting Topics

Background

Future meeting topics requested by Commissioners:

- Chapter 5
- Candidate Interview Process and application
- Next Chapter to Review - Chapter 6, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3
- Commission Onboarding Manual
- Meeting Schedule Cadence

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

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