

City of Flint Charter Review Commission
Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2015
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Joy Tabernacle Church
2025 N Chevrolet Ave, Flint, MI

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Joe King (Chair), Ben Pauli, Bill Hammond, Lamonica Harris, Steve Mintline, Derwin Munroe, Robert E Wesley, Craig Wolcott, Denise Yarbrough

Charter Review Commission Members Present: Cleora Magee, Victoria McKenzie, Charles Metcalfe, Heidi Phaneuf, Marsha Wesley, Barry Williams

I. Call to Order – Introductions

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and introductions were made by all who were present.

II. Charter Review Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Heidi went over the roles and responsibilities of the Charter Review Advisory Committee.

III. Structure of Advisory Committee Decision Making

Joe presented the two types of decision making Robert's Rules of Order and consensus model. There was discussion on both types. The group agreed to the Roberts Rules of Order model.

IV. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Steve and 2nd by Bill to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Article 1 Discussion

The group continued last month's discussion on Article 1.

Discussion Question 1: The Preamble

Ben shared some additional changes that were made by Jim Richardson. Everyone was very happy with the changes. Thank you to Ben for your hard work on this.

Discussion Question 2: How do we assure appointed officers are qualified?

Note: The City of Flint voters reduced the number of mayoral appointees from 10 to 5 in 2014.

Joe said other appointees should also be included in this also, such as those appointed to Boards.

Steve thinks the City Council confirmation is enough to ensure that appointees are qualified and the specific positions of the mayoral appointees should be outlined in the city ordinances. Craig thinks it should be in the Charter.

Joe wants a Charter that is going to stabilize the city. He doesn't think the Charter strong enough today.

Steve said we need to look long term, not on the terms of the current situation.

Victoria suggested we need a minimum 3-year residency for appointees. Steve disagrees because there may be a need to find qualified individuals who are not current city residents.

Bill said the City of Flint Department of Community and Economic Development has had 18 directors and 18 years, he added that only department heads with contracts that say they must have a residency requirement are required to live in the City. They are given time to comply if they need to move into the city. In Detroit, $\frac{3}{4}$ of department heads were interim appointees because of a similar provision.

Some additional thoughts from the group:

- Department heads should not be appointees, because there is too much turnover with political nature of being appointed by the mayor.
- If mayors who cannot have appointees, this may discourage the interest of potential candidates. Mayors run to be change candidates.

Discussion turned to form of governance. Heidi suggested our next month's meeting be about form of governance.

Discussion on department heads and officers. Heidi mentioned annual evaluation of department head performance tied to budgetary process. There was some concern that it would be too rigid and limiting, also there was questions about who would be doing the reviewing. Annual evaluation/ confirmation was mentioned. Victoria mentioned that there could be concerns about evaluation taking the power away from the Mayor as this is their role. Bill mentioned the need to revitalized Civil Service Commission. Craig said we need to clearly document roles and responsibilities. Regarding appointees, Bill said, if you appointed me, you would have authority over me. Joe suggested independent evaluations. Bill suggested the Board of Standards and Review could be the governmental body charged with doing some of these things. Discussion turned to the Standards of Conduct Board. Questions were raised as to who sits on the board and what is their power? Why is the board is not functioning and why and who got rid of them? In Section 4 – 02, the

Standards of Conduct Board is advisory only and that mayors have ignored this because it is advisory. It was suggested that the standards of Conduct Board needs more authority. Joe said this Board this was new in the 1974 Charter.

Joe said we need council to have information on the things they are voting on need more time to review things.

All Boards and Commissions are listed in different places in the Charter. A need exists for a comprehensive list and their status.

Standards of Conduct Board was a good Segway into discussion question #3.

Discussion Question 3: Code of Ethics

The Charter in this section references ordinances written to address ethical disclosures in the interest of the public. It was stated that we need to find the ordinances it references and see how they were written.

Steve items # 3 and #7 in this section are covered by campaign finance law and State law supersedes anything in the charter that conflicts with state law. If state law changes, then it is necessary. MCL Sec 57 Campaign Finance Law.

Question 4:

The commission will bring forward a proposal to address this item at a future meeting.

- VI. Agenda items for next month's meeting** – we will be discussing forms of government
- VII. Next Meeting-** Charter Review Advisory Committee: Thursday, January 7th at 6:00 pm at Stockton Center at Spring Grove, 720 Ann Arbor St, Flint, MI
- VIII. Public Comment-** there was no public comment
- IX. Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned at 7 pm

Guiding Principles for the City of Flint Charter Review Commission

The City of Flint Charter Review process will be open to all Flint citizens. The Commission will ensure that public voices are recognized and that information is open and accessible to the public. The Commission will go to where the people are and will reach out to residents and businesses from all wards. The Commission will seek to engage and educate the community on the City of Flint Charter and will consider all ideas heard in the community. (Adopted June 18, 2015)