

**RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES**

Monday August 7, 2023 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Roseville Library, 2180 North Hamline Ave., Roseville Minnesota 55113

1. Call to Order: Chair Nancy Haas called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Roll Call Attendance: Completed by Jason Yang

District	Charter Commission Member	Present	Excused	Unexcused
1	Ann Maslansky-Takahashi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	Eugene M. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Lisa M. Laliberte – Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Joann Knuth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Nancy Haas - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Bethany Winkels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	William A. Lindeke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Jazmin Glaser-Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Gloria Bogen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Hoang Murphy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Matthew S. Emerson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Charlotte A. Pena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	William (Bill) Kempe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Angela (Angie) Thies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Shelby Gagnon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Allen E. Hoppe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests: Rachel Tierney, Attorney, Kennedy & Graven Law Firm  
Melissa Finnegan, Government Relations Specialist, Ramsey  
County Manager's Office

Also Present: Jim Mogen, Assistant Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney's Office  
Jason Yang, Planning Specialist, Ramsey County  
Manager's Office

3. Motion to amend the agenda to change the last quarterly meeting from November 6, 2023 to October 16, 2023. Motioned by Bethany Winkels, seconded by Allen Hoppe. Unanimously approved by all members present.

4. Approval of Monday May 1, 2023 Agenda: Motioned by Bill Kempe and seconded by Eugene Nichols. Unanimously approved by all members present.
5. Approval of the February 6 Minutes: Motioned by Lisa Laliberte and seconded by Allen Hoppe. Unanimously approved by all members present.
6. New Business
  - A. Introduction of New Ramsey County Charter Commission Members
    - i. District 5 – Gloria Bogen
  - B. Request by Bob Fletcher to Amend the Home Rule Charter and Response
    - i. Presented by Rachel Tierney, Kennedy & Graven Law Firm
      1. Rachel provided an overview of the proposed amendment to the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter and facilitated a discussion with the members present. Discussion topics included reviewing Home Rule Charter - Section 11, lack of clarity regarding petition processes, delegated authority for appointed vs elected positions, issues regarding sufficiency of voters for a petition, and discussion of potential future next steps or options.
        - a. See Mn Statutes 383A.554 and 375A about application and differences between “sufficient signatures” (ie. 5% of signatures based on General Election or 5% of signatures based on the Governors election).
      2. Next options could include:
        - a. After petitioners have gathered “sufficient” signatures and after the signatures have been vetted by the County Manager’s Office or the Elections department, then the Charter Commission members will approve the sufficiency of the petition and begin the process of getting the petition on the next general election ballot, OR
        - b. Charter Commission members can ask for more information from petitioner, interested parties, or request additional legal information.
7. Citizen Input (Open: 6:50 p.m. Closed: 7:03 p.m.)
  - A. Bob Fletcher, Ramsey County Sheriff
    - i. Provided public comment about the petition to change the appointment of the county manager to an elected position. Purpose is to balance power between the board and the county manager. Plan is to move forward slowly and methodically to give an opportunity for residents to voice their thoughts about the proposed amendment.
    - ii. Charter Commission members had an opportunity to ask the petitioner questions about intent, research and goals of the proposed change.

- B. Motion by Ann to receive a copy of background work/legal memo that Rachel discussed thus far, no second; not approved.
  - C. Questions from Commission Members included:
    - i. What are the average years of service for the county manager role?
    - ii. What was the level of research conducted by the petitioner?
      - 1. The Petitioner's response: Researched other governing options, but tried to keep the amendment simple. No authority has been taken away from the board of commissioners.
  - D. Chair Haas informed the Charter Commission members this was not an action item, and they can ask for future conversations or legal information to clarify gray areas.
8. Ramsey County Government Relations Legislative Session Presentation
- i. Presented by Melissa Finnegan, Government Relations Specialist, Ramsey County Manager's Office
    - 1. Provided a highlight of the 2023 Legislative Session, see attachment 3.
9. Committee Reports
- A. Chair Reports – Chair Haas
    - i. Provided update on workplan status and invited co-chairs to provide their updates.
  - B. Budget Review – Co-chairs Angie Thies and Ann Maslansky-Takahashi
    - i. They will review the Ramsey County budget and draft a letter to offer suggestions and feedback pertaining to the proposed 2024-2025 budget. They also invited other members to join the committee and plan to meet once before the next quarterly meeting.
  - C. Charter Committee Review – Co-chair Mathew Emerson and Eugene Nichols
    - i. They reviewed the Home Rule Charter and have nothing to report. They asked additional questions to clarify roles and responsibilities of the Charter Commission members.
10. Future Agenda Items
- A. Presentation from Ramsey County for the proposed 2024-2025 budget and tax levy.
  - B. Approved the proposed 2024 Ramsey County Charter Commission meeting dates.
11. Adjournment
- A. Chair Nancy Haas adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday October 16, 2023  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. 90 Plato Blvd West, Plato Conference Center, Saint Paul, MN 55107

Attachments:

1. May 1, 2023 Ramsey County Charter Commission Minutes
2. Ramsey County Charter Commission Response to the Home Rule Charter
3. 2023 Legislative Session Highlight