

Ramsey County Charter Commission

Minutes of February 3, 2020

The meeting was held at the Ramsey County Shoreview Library, 4560 Victoria St. N, St Paul with the following members in attendance:

	Members Present	Members Absent
District 1		Joe Murphy Steven Reeves
District 2	Emily Dunsworth Ache Wakai	
District 3		Jacquelyn Thomas Nancy Haas Sharon Garth
District 4	Bethany Winkels	
District 5	Michael Lindsay	
District 6	Robert Humphrey Tony Parrish Sr.	
District 7	John O’Phelan Angie Thies	
At Large	Laura Suess Susan Majerus	Bill Kempe
Also present:	Jolie Wood, Ramsey County Policy Analyst David Triplett, Elections Manager Jeff Stephenson, Ramsey County Attorney’s Office – Civil Division Director Janet Guthrie, Director of Administrative Services / Chief Clerk – County Board Jenny Xiong, Clerk Typist – County Manager’s Office	

1. Call to Order: Mike Lindsay volunteered to step in to chair the meeting as the chair and vice-chair were unavailable for this meeting. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Quorum was met at 8:16 PM. Without quorum, the agenda was modified to go through items that did not require formal action.
2. Introductions: Members introduced themselves. This was Angela Thies’ first meeting. Guests included Ramsey County Policy Analyst, Jolie Wood and Ramsey County Interim Elections Manager, David Triplett.
3. New Business:
 - A. Outreach Efforts for Elections and Census: Jolie Wood, PhD (refer to PowerPoint attached)
 - There is a proposed additional question about citizenship. Ramsey County has been working to promote the census since early 2018 through community engagement initiatives. Many people that need to be contacted through outreach to participate in the census are the same people that we need to reach out to participate in voting.
 - Mailings will start going to homes in March. New option: going online to respond or paper questionnaires. Census takers will go to homes that have not gone online or responded by paper forms. In December, Census Bureau will deliver counts to congress and the president where redistricting processing will begin.
 - Counting happens every 10 years to ensure fair representation for every state. Minnesota has not been growing as fast as other states and is on the verge of losing a seat in Congress.
 - The census data guides the amount of funding to states for important federal programs such as healthcare, food, education, housing and financial assistance programs.

- Individuals' personal information is protected, and everyone counts whether they're a citizen or not.
- Currently, we need census takers, especially those who can speak local languages.

B. Election Security: Dave Triplett

- There is an estimated 60,000-80,000 eligible residents that are not voting.
- Voter guides are being provided residents.
- Poll-books were implemented in 2019, which are quick, private, and can speak back to you.
- Redistricting should be complete in mid-February of next year.
- Ramsey County hired an IS security manager.
- Ramsey County is the only county in the state with a non-networked voting system.
- Performance metrics are aligned with turnout, which can all be found on the [Ramsey County Open Data Portal](#).
- There is a 46-day early voting period in Ramsey County.
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4. Approval of February 3, 2020 Agenda: Bethany motioned to approve agenda. Robert seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
5. Approval of October 21, 2019 Minutes: Sue motioned to approve minutes. Angie seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.
6. Citizen Comments/Input: None.
7. Old Business: None.

C. Recruitment Period to Open March 1 – Closes April 30: 1 Opening – District 5 (attachments)

D. The Chief Clerk asked for clarification about the need for paper copies of the agenda packet being brought to the meetings. The majority indicated that providing paper copies would be useful. Paper copies will be provided for everyone.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- A. Welcoming new Charter Commission member
- B. Home Rule Charter Review (October ongoing)

C. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Humphrey, seconded by Bethany Winkels. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Xiong – Clerk Typist – County Manager's Office