

RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

Minutes of Monday, May 3, 2021 – 7 PM

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § § 13D.021 and 13D.04, subd. 3, Chief Legal Counsel of Ramsey County has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Charter Commission members will participate online via Zoom by telephone or other electronic means. Public participation is available online via Zoom with live access to the meeting at <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/leadership/charter-commission/charter-commission-agendas-and-minutes>. The video recording of the meeting will be posted at the link noted above.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Chair Nancy Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. ROLL CALL Attendance: Completed by Sia Xiong.

District	Charter Commission Member	Present	Absent
1	Ann Maslansky-Takahashi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	Steven Reeves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Ache Wakai	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Joann Knuth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Nancy Haas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Susan Flores-Diaz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Bethany Winkels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Sharon Garth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Joshua (Josh) Ortiz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Sebastian Ellefson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Hoang Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Tony Parrish, Sr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	John O-Phelan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	William (Bill) Kempe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Angela (Angie) Thies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Laura Suess	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Susan (Sue) Majerus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Also present: Amy Schmidt, Assistant County Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney’s Office
 Janet Guthrie, Chief Clerk – County Board
 Samuel Clark, Civil Division Director, Ramsey County Attorney’s Office
 Sia Xiong, Administrative Planning Assistant

Guests Dr. Lynne Ogawa, Medical Director
 Ryan O’Connor, County Manager

3. Approval of May 3, 2021 Agenda: Motion by Sue Majerus and second by Sebastian Ellefson. Unanimously approved by roll call vote of all members present.
4. Approval of February 1, 2021 Minutes (Attachment): Motion by Laura Suess and second by Hoang Murphy. Unanimously approved by roll call of all members present.

5. Chair Reports:
 - A. Zoom Protocol Reminder
 - B. Roberts Rules Cheat Sheet (Attached)
 - C. Janet Guthrie Retirement

6. Ramsey County Updates (Presentation by County Manager Ryan O'Connor): County Manager Ryan O'Connor introduced himself and Medical Director Dr. Lynne Ogawa on their background and role.
 - A. COVID-19 Vaccines: Dr. Lynne Ogawa presented the [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#) and discussed current numbers and outreach efforts Ramsey County is taking, specifically to diverse communities. Dr. Lynne Ogawa opened it up for questions and discussion. Various members asked questions, shared their stories, and recommendations. Dr. Lynne Ogawa finished answering questions and left at 7:48 PM.
 - B. Census: County Manager Ryan O'Connor highlighted the [Ramsey County and 2020 Census site](#), and provided high level updates on the census.
 - C. Transforming Systems Together: County Manager Ryan O'Connor continued on to share the current progress and purpose of Transforming Systems Together. He shared the website where residents can find updates: [Transforming Systems Together](#).
 - D. Racial Equity: Transitioning to the last topic, County Manager Ryan O'Connor ended with racial equity efforts with the COVID-19 Racial Equity and Community Engagement Response Team and Equity Action Circle. There was a shared website brought up as well: [COVID-19 Racial Equity and Community Engagement](#). After these topics, he opened it up for questions and discussion.

Various questions were asked regarding Boys Totem Town, Transforming Systems Together, and anticipated action steps with community partners. After there were no more questions from the members, Chair Nancy Haas thanked County Manager Ryan O'Connor for joining us and he ended with closing thoughts before leaving at 8:21 PM.

7. Workplan and Committee Reports: Vice Chair Angie Thies asked members if anyone was interested in chairing and/or serving on the committees.
 - A. Budget Committee: She elaborated on bylaws and explained that ideally the committee would better understand the budget before the October meeting where the County Manager comes for approval. Bethany Winkels and Ann Maslansky-Takahashi volunteered to serve on the committee. John O'Phelan mentioned the members should consider the term limits especially if members have a term ending soon. Assistant County Attorney Amy Schmidt reiterated the language on how the Charter Commission is involved in the budget, which is focused on providing input if they would like. Ann Maslansky-Takahashi is open to chairing with another member if needed. She highlighted the importance of attendance and engagement. Majority of the members may remove a member if they miss more than three (3) meetings according to the bylaws by Assistant County Attorney Amy Schmidt. The Chair and Vice Chair will follow up with members on engagement.

- B. Charter Review: A question was asked on the purpose of the Charter Review. Sebastian Ellefson asked for further clarity on this committee as well. John O'Phelan offered potentially serving on one of the committees but reiterated the importance on tracking the term limits. Sebastian Ellefson is open to chairing this committee.
- C. Others: Additional discussion that a potential committee would be able to look at the bylaws. Assistant County Attorney Amy Schmidt clarified that creating standing committees are able to be done. Vice Chair will work with Sia Xiong to help compile those who offered to volunteer for the committees.

Vice Chair Angie Thies summarized the volunteers and potential chairs for the two committees. John O'Phelan suggested to have a specific number of members for each committee before standing them up officially. Assistant County Attorney Amy Schmidt clarified that communications in the minutes are an option but may be communicated from the County Manager's Office to all members, to capture those who are not present. Additional discussion around member dedication, consistent engagement, and intentionality.

- 8. Citizen Input (Approximately 8:30 PM): Chair Haas checked to see if anyone who attended who is not a member would like to provide input. There was no non-Commission member in attendance, so there were no comments.
- 9. Future Agenda Items: Recruitment for a bylaws committee, and which ones should be identified as a standing meeting. Motion by Ann Maslansky-Takahashi to have Legislator Jason Isaacson attend a meeting and second by Sebastian Ellefson. Discussion was had around the purpose and question if there were available meetings for this topic. Ann Maslansky-Takahashi removed her motion, and okay with deferring it.
- 10. Adjournment: Motion by Hoang Murphy and second by Sebastian Ellefson. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 2, 2021 – 7 PM

In-person meeting for Charter Commission members, staff, and the public – location TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Sia Xiong, Administrative Planning Assistant.