

RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

Minutes of Monday, February 7, 2022 – 7 PM

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 13D.021, subd. 1, the Charter Commission Chair has determined that due to the ongoing health pandemic, particularly because of the delta variant, an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent. Charter Commission Committee members will participate online via Zoom by telephone or other electronic means. Also, because of the ongoing health pandemic, it is unfeasible for at least one Charter Commission member, chief legal counsel, or County Manager staff to be physically present in the regular meeting room. 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>.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Chair Nancy Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Due to the ongoing health pandemic, as Chair of the Charter Commission, I have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent. In compliance with Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021, subdivision 1, we state for the record that all members of the Charter Commission are able to hear one another and all discussion and testimony, as can members of the public. Also, because of the ongoing health pandemic, it is unfeasible for at least one Charter Commission member, chief legal counsel, or County staff to be physically present in the regular meeting room. All votes by Charter Commission members will be conducted by roll call.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Ache Wakai	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Joann Knuth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Nancy Haas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Sallee Brandt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Bethany Winkels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Sharon Garth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Joshua (Josh) Ortiz "Or-teez"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Sebastian Ellefson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Hoang "H-wong" Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Tony Parrish, Sr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	John O'Phelan "Pha-len"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	William (Bill) Kempe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Angela (Angie) Thies "Tees"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Jazmin Glaser-Kelly	<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
Mee Cheng, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Clerk
Sia Xiong, County Manager's Office Admin.

3. Approval of February 7, 2022 Agenda: Motion by Sebastian Ellefson and second by Sharon Garth. Unanimously approved by roll call of all members present.
4. Approval of October 18, 2021 Minutes (Attachment): Motion by Sebastian Ellefson and second by Hoang Murphy. Unanimously approved by roll call of all members present.
5. Old Business: None
6. New Business:
 - A. Welcome Chair and Vice Chair: Chair Nancy Haas welcomed everyone to the first meeting.
 - B. New Commission Member Introduction: Chair Nancy Haas welcomed the two new members, Sallee Brandt and Jazmin Glaser-Kelly, and allowed them to introduce themselves and why they joined.
 - C. Entire Commission Member Introduction: Chair Nancy Haas then called each member to introduce themselves to the new members. Ramsey County staff were also given an opportunity to introduce themselves. Chair Nancy Haas encouraged members to think about the opportunity to be Chair and Vice Chair next year.
 - D. Charter Commission Onboarding Binder (Attachment): Chair Nancy Haas briefly went over the onboarding binder, emphasizing the Robert's Rules cheat sheet and the Home Rule Charter.
 - E. 2022 Charter Commission Workplan Adoption (Attachment): Motion by Hoang Murphy and second by Sebastian Ellefson. Unanimously approved by roll call of all members present.
7. Committee Reports:
 - A. Budget (Attachments): The budget letter and response from the County Manager was shared. Appreciation from the members were expressed to the committee.
 - B. Charter Review: Shared updates on upcoming dates and meetings for the Charter Review. Members were encouraged to join. Chapters are being reviewed in sections.
 - C. Bylaws: Chair Nancy Haas offered that although we do not have a chair for this committee, it would be important to have it as an active committee. Hoang Murphy expressed his interest in being on the committee but will not have capacity to chair. Assistant County Attorney Amy Schmidt clarified that the Home Rule Charter is 30 pages and the Bylaws are 2 pages.
8. Citizen Input (Approximately 8:30 PM): No residents were present.
9. Future Agenda Items: Discussion around member attendance, and Ann Maslanksy-Takahashi offered to connect with members who have not been able to attend through phone call in addition to just an email communication. A template can be developed on what to cover to ensure it complies with the Open Meeting Law – Chair Nancy Haas and Vice Chair Angie Thies will follow-up.

Hoang Murphy suggested reviewing current city or county bylaws and comparing ours to it before amendments are made or suggested. John O'Phelan was also interested in having guest staff who presented in previous years attend again. There was discussion around compensation for charter members and if it is available. Rent control topic was also brought up briefly and there was a suggestion to have someone from the county attend to talk about affordable rental units and how it will impact or translate into other cities. Ann Maslansky-Takahashi mentioned Arden Hills, and Assistant County Attorney Amy Schmidt clarified that there is no active development at this time.

Legislative session and what they are advocating for and what they are in opposition to. A recap by the next meeting would be interesting and what they anticipate for the Spring. Sue Majerus is also interested in hearing from legislation and what was accomplished.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 2, 2022 – 7 PM

Location information will be posted 3 days prior to each meeting date.

Respectfully submitted by Sia Xiong, County Manager's Office Admin.