

## RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday October 17, 2022

25 West 4th Street, Suite 150  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Meeting location and materials are also available at <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/leadership/charter-commission/charter-commission-agendas-and-minutes>.

1. Call to Order: Chair Nancy Haas called the meeting to order at 7:14pm
2. Roll Call Attendance: Completed by Mee Cheng

District	Charter Commission Member	Present	Absent
1	Ann Maslansky-Takahashi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	VACANT	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Sebastian Ellefson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Hoang Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Tony Parrish, Sr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	John O'Phelan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	William (Bill) Kempe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Angela (Angie) Thies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Jazmin Glaser-Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Susan (Sue) Majerus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests: Alex Kotze, Chief Financial Officer, Ramsey County Office

Also Present Jim Mogen, Assistant Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney's Office  
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk, Ramsey County Manager's Office  
Jason Yang, Administrative Planning Assistant, Ramsey County's Manager's Office

1. Approval of Meeting Agenda – No quorum, agenda was not approved, but the attending members had a consensus to provide updates from the respective sub-committees and to discuss the agenda. No decisions were made.
2. Approval of Monday August 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes (Attachment): No quorum, minutes from the previous Charter Commission meeting was not approved.

### 3. New Business

#### A. Welcome and Introductions

- i. Jason Yang, new administrative assistant from the Ramsey County Manager's Office introduced himself to the group.

#### B. Budget Presentation by Alex Kotze, Chief Financial Officer (See attachment)

- i. Discussed important dates in the budget process and the budget is online to align with Open Data access.
- ii. Emphasized the importance of performance management with a three-tiered approach connecting countywide, service teams, and departments.
- iii. 2020-2021 budget year was focused on sustaining and scaling up transformative change
- iv. Budget important topics
  1. No change to proposed levy increase (4.54% approved in 2023), taxes are lower compared to adjacent jurisdictions.
    - a. Ann Maslansky question: Are there correlation between increase in property taxes and districts with high aging population?
      - i. Alex: There is \$25 million in tax dollars that need to be collected by RC residents, Heather Bestler from Ramsey County Finance is working diligently to get the word out to residents.
    - b. Sallee Brandt question: What departments are under Health and Wellness?
      - i. Alex listed off departments associated with Health and Wellness.
    - c. Sharon Garth: How is the message getting to the community that the correction facilities are decreasing?
      - i. Alex: We've seen a decrease in the correction facilitates because we are working to prevent community members from entering the system in the first place. (Correctional Facility and Juvenile Correction Center)
        1. To Do: Mee connect Monica Long with Sharon Garth
  - v. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds awarded \$108 million in COVID-19 recovery and will be utilized by 2026.
  - vi. Continuing to invest in transformative change by sustaining areas doing well and investing in areas that need improvement.

#### C. Workshop Orientation Proposal

- i. Purpose: to provide an overview and orientation for new members about the scope of work, the focus, and to discuss how the group should conduct itself in meetings.
- ii. 9 seats open for 2023
- iii. Current challenges:
  1. Participation and attendance
- iv. Next Steps:
  1. January 23, 2023 will be for the workshop orientation.

### 4. Charter Commission Officer and Membership Update – Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2023

- A. Update on terms and applications
    - i. Sue Majerus and Sharon Garth have reached their term limit, the group thanked them for their commitment.
      - 1. Per the bylaws, there is no term limit and members can continue to serve until they are replaced.
  - B. Report of the nomination Committee - Election of Chair and Vice Chair
    - i. Sue Majerus provided updates on members who were interested in being Chair and Vice Chair.
    - ii. Group also thanked Nancy and Angie for their work as current Chair and Vice Chair in developing a process for the Charter Committee.
    - iii. No quorum to vote, but the group discussed commitment and the types of candidates who would be a good fit.
5. Committee Reports
- A. Budget
    - i. Appreciated Ramsey County's approach by engaging with the Charter Committee to discuss the budget.
    - ii. Chair Nancy Haas: Does anyone have thoughts on the budget that Alex presented on?
      - 1. Sue Majerus: want to recognize that the HRA is now centralized, however she also wants the HRA to understand there is a push and pull between all the cities in Ramsey County.
      - 2. Nancy Haas: There is room to include transportation and housing fund allocation in the budget letter drafted.
    - iii. Legal: Recommends sub-committee to finalize the budget letter and they don't need approval from the larger group.
  - B. Charter Review
    - i. The Charter review group has one more chapter to review and will update the group with recommendations and suggestions for the next year.
  - C. Bylaws Review (Attachment)
    - i. Jim Mogen: noticed some changes determining of how a commission member could lose their position, recommendation is to adopt some language about when someone is not participating or not performing their role and responsibilities.
      - a. Question: Do we know why folks aren't attending and why these meetings aren't valuable to them?
        - i. **Answer:** if a committee member wants to lead this conversation, they can volunteer and lead this conversation in the new year.
    - ii. Jim Mogen: added some additional language to the procedure section.
    - iii. Jim Mogen: recommendation is to adjust the quorum language since it can be defined in many ways due to lack of participants, the group may want to consider a smaller quorum.
      - 1. There are other options to prevent a minority from taking the lead over the majority (ie. weigh the attendance to reach a quorum).
6. Chair Reports
- A. Workplan for 2023

- i. Chair and Vice Chair will work with sub-committees to finalize charter review and budget review.
  - B. Approve Commission meeting dates – suggested dates, no quorum to vote.
    - i. February 6, 2023
    - ii. May 1, 2023
    - iii. August 7, 2023
    - iv. October 16, 2023
      - 1. Admin to send out placeholders for the above times plus January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 7. Citizen Input (Approximately 8:30 PM):
  - A. No public attendees to provide citizen input.
- 8. Future Agenda Items
  - A. Potholes and snow plowing on County Roads
  - B. Community Corrections - Monica Long
  - C. Community and Economic Development presentation.
- 9. Adjournment at 8:31pm

Next Meeting: **Next Meeting: Monday January 23, 2023.**

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

Respectfully submitted by Jason Yang, Ramsey County Manager's Office