

Ramsey County Charter Commission
Monday, May 6, 2013

The Ramsey County Charter Commission meeting, held at the Ramsey County Public Works Facility, 1425 Paul Kirkwood Drive, Arden Hills, was called to order at 7:10 pm by Vice-Chair Randy Gustafson, with the following members present:

	<u>Members Present:</u>	<u>Members Absent:</u>
District 1:		Joe Murphy Richard Sonterre
District 2:	Tammy L. Pust	
District 3:		Bob Benke Eric Haugee
	Randy Gustafson	
District 4:	Theresa Nix Peter Hendricks	
District 5:	Brian Joyce Wendy Underwood	
District 6:		Robert Lynn Humphrey Russell J. Miller
District 7:	Robert Bruton Marvin C. Koppen	
At Large:	Emily Samsel Beverly Aplikowski Fred Perez	

Also present: Kyle Thomas, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office
Jeff Stephenson, Assistant County Attorney
Harry McPeak, Assistant County Attorney
Bonnie Jackelen, County Manager's Office
Megan Haugen, Elections Office

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. by Vice-Chair Gustafson.

Approval of the May 6, 2013 agenda

Underwood moved, seconded by Perez, to approve the May 6, 2013 agenda. Approved unanimously.

Minutes of February 4, 2013

Bruton moved, seconded by Aplikowski, to approve the minutes of February 4, 2012. Approved unanimously.

Citizen Comments/Input

No citizens were present for comment or input.

Old Business

Administrative Code Issue – Report from Subcommittee

Gustafson stated that a subcommittee was formed at the February 4, 2013 meeting, and consisted of the following individuals: Aplikowski, Bruton, Gustafson, Hendricks, and Perez. This subcommittee was formed to address the issue of the Referendum and Recall and the potential for conflict between the Charter and the Administrative Code.

The subcommittee found that there was no conflict between the Charter and the Administrative Code, as the charter authorized the adoption of the administrative code to establish the detailed procedures, including the initiative, referendum and recall process.

Gustafson presented the annotated Home Rule Charter dated 12-12-1989 (copies were made available to members). The subcommittee found that in the original the County has the power to adopt rules relating to the Charter and the County Board has the power to adopt and amend the code. The subcommittee found that this was similar to the advice given by the County Attorney's office when this issue was first brought before the commission.

Motion was made by Underwood, seconded by Koppen, to accept the report of the subcommittee. Approved unanimously.

Status of Requests to County Board from Charter Commission Resolutions dated August 2012

Resolution #1 – Public Participation at County Board Meetings

Gustafson reported that Chair Benke met with the County Manager and Commissioner Ortega's assistant on this issue. Ramsey County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt wrote a letter to the Charter Commission, dated May 6, 2013, to address this issue. The County Board believes that there is sufficient time currently provided for formal public input, but they would focus future efforts on alternative methods of participation. County Manager Kleinschmidt's memo was distributed to the Charter Commission members.

Resolution #2 - Researching options for public discussion between Charter Commission members and the public

Gustafson explained the history behind this resolution. There had been lively discussion regarding this resolution, including several amendments. County Manager Kleinschmidt's letter addresses the online strategy of the County, including the website and intranet, and that the Charter Commission, along with other commissions and county departments, will be included in this process. Gustafson said the infrastructure of the county is aging, and the County is working on technology that can work for the future. The plan for implementation is a bit down the road, since the county is still in the discovery process. He stated that the Charter Commission appreciates receipt of the letter.

New Business

Gustafson called for new business, none was presented.

Ms. Jackelen stated that members are encouraged to read through the Charter and any members who have concerns or questions about the Charter should feel free to contact her.

Koppen raised the issue of signatures and allotted days to collect signatures that was on the ballot a few years ago, and asked if the commission should reconsider the question. One question passed, and the other did not pass. He believes that the public didn't understand the questions.

Hendricks asked why Koppen believes the public didn't understand the question.

Koppen believes the public didn't understand what the question was regarding.

Gustafson asked if there was any interest in doing so and stated that the question would have to go before the voters again.

Joyce asked what was decided, what was accepted, and what was denied.

Ms. Jackelen stated that the details are in an old file, but that the number of days to collect signatures was changed from 30 to 45.

Underwood believes there was an opinion stated by the public.

Gustafson said it extended the time period that you can get the signatures, but left the total number of signatures alone.

There was insufficient interest in bringing this question back.

Aplikowski stated that it might be good to review the Position Papers of the Charter Commission. She stated the Position Papers were written in 1990, and that position papers have not been passed since, and believes that the Charter Commission should look at creating more position papers.

Gustafson asked if any members were in favor of changing or amending Position Papers.

Joyce stated that the commission should see if anything had changed drastically from when the last Position Paper was written.

Hendricks asked if Ms. Jackelen could add the position paper documents to the website. Ms. Jackelen said that they would be added to the webpage.

Gustafson called for more new business.

No further new business was presented.

Adjournment

Underwood moved to adjourn, seconded by Perez. Approved unanimously. The Charter Commission adjourned at 7:38 pm.