

Ramsey County Charter Commission

Minutes of February 6, 2017

The meeting was held at Ramsey County Public Works, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Dr, Arden Hills with the following members in attendance:

	Members Present	Members Absent
District 1	Joe Murphy	(Vacant)
District 2	Bob Benke	James Meyer
District 3	Randy Gustafson	
District 4	Sharon Garth	Theresa Tenelle Nix
District 5	Kyle Mestad	Wendy Underwood
		Rachel Gillespie
District 6	Robert Humphrey	Lizeth de la Torre
District 7		(Vacant)
At Large		Fred Perez
		Emily Kristen Holmes Samsel
		Renee Alexander

Also present: Jeff Stephenson, Ramsey County Civil Division Director
 Janet Guthrie, Director of Administrative Services / Chief Clerk – County Board
 Cheryl Kempe, Administrative Assistant
 Joe Mansky, Ramsey County Elections Manager

1. Call to Order: Chair Gustafson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of October 26, 2015 Agenda: Benke moved to approve the agenda for October 24, 2016; seconded by Murphy. Approved unanimously.
3. Approval of October 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Murphy moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2016 Meeting Minutes; seconded by Benke. Approved unanimously.
4. Introductions of New Members: Kyle Mestad District #7
5. Citizen Comments/Input: None
6. New Business: Joe Mansky presented on: Election Issues in Ramsey County...and Beyond (Presentation attached).
7. Old Business: Recruiting-reach out and encourage others to join the Charter. Correction on Randy's work phone number: 651.266.7315.
8. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair
 Humphrey nominated Randy Gustafson for Chair and Joe Murphy for Vice Chair; seconded by Benke. Approved unanimously.
9. Future Agenda Items
 - Discussion item: Charter has been around for 30 years-does it make sense to continue as a Charter? One benefit of Home Rule is initiative and referendum.
 - Possible celebration of 30 years as a charter?

- Meeting per diem discussion; some boards are paid per diems and some aren't. Does charter have authority to decide?
- Are there any ideas that the Charter have to help Ramsey County with low voter turnout neighborhoods? When those citizens were asked why they didn't vote, they said politicians don't come to the neighborhoods and talk with them. Conversely, because they are low voter turnout areas, politicians don't spend much or any time in those areas. Schools are asking for security on voting days where voting takes place; possibly ask legislature to make voting days, non-school days.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Cheryl Kempe – Administrative Assistant – County Manager's Office