

CHARTER COMMISSION

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2018, MEETING

4:30 P.M. – **ROOM 320 OF CITY HALL**

(** Note: Conference room 320 is located on third floor of City Hall**)

- A. Administrative Business
 - a. Call Meeting to Order
 - b. Recording of Attendance
 - c. Approve Minutes of March 13, 2018 meeting
 - d. Set Order of Agenda
 - e. Communications
- B. Open Comment Period
- C. Committee Reports
- D. Unfinished and Deferred Business
- E. New Business
 - Consideration of Section 3.00 – Charter Election
 - Consideration of Section 6.07 – Ordinance Publication
- F. Other business - as may be brought up by members
- G. Adjourn

CHARTER COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR MARCH 13, 2018

4:30 P.M. – ROOM 104 CITY HALL

A. Administrative Business

- a. Call Meeting to Order: The meeting of the Commission was held in Room 104 of City Hall and was called to order by Chair Vince Barry at approximately 4:30 p.m.
- b. Recording of Attendance: Present were commission members Vince Barry, Jane Belau, Kathy Meyerle, Fred Suhler, Marcia Marcoux, Fran Bradley, Leigh Johnson, Robert Haeussinger, Dick Hall, John Eckerman, Dave Senjem, and Stephanie Podulke. Absent were commission members Kellie Mueller, Carol Kamper, and Ray Schmitz.
- c. Approval of Minutes: Motion and a second to approve minutes of February 22, 2018. Unanimous vote.
- d. Set Order of Agenda: Agenda set as ordered.
- e. Communications: Goslee informed the Board that the City Clerk received voluminous materials from Mr. Terry Reilly. Mr. Reilly was told that unsolicited materials presented by members of the public are not made part of the agenda materials but that he could e-mail them to individual Commission members if he'd like.

B. Open Comment Period: Chair Vince Barry referred to Deputy City Attorney Goslee for procedural guidelines as typically there is a 15 minute time limit for this section of Agenda. It was decided that at least three individuals who wished to speak in favor of rank choice voting would be permitted to speak with a time limit of three minutes each. In turn, at least three individuals who wished to speak *against* rank choice voting would be permitted to speak with a time limit of three minutes each. With that, open comment period commenced.

Ruth Bennett – 132 Chavelle Lane NE. Ms. Bennett came forward to speak against rank choice voting as she feels it's complicated for voters, expensive, and would lose the opportunity of primary elections. She feels there is no problem to fix.

Jan Thronson – 925 Northway Lane NE. Mr. Thronson came forward to speak against rank choice voting. Feels system is not broken and feels too many outsiders wish to come into Rochester and change things.

Mark Sampson – 1411 Durand Court SE. Mr. Sampson came forward to speak for rank choice voting and wanted to point out that system is potentially broken anytime there is more than two people in an election. Only works if there is exactly two people in the race.

Steven Kuehn - 4102 NW 14th Avenue. Mr. Kuehn came forward to speak against rank choice voting. Feels system is not broken and primaries are needed to choose the best person. Feels the expenses do not outweigh the benefits.

Albert Vesper – 2122 Madison Court SW. Mr. Vesper wished to speak against rank choice voting and to express his concern on how to handle a recount if it became necessary.

Michelle Sykes – 5021 19 ½ Avenue NW. Ms. Sykes came forward to speak for rank choice voting. Sykes feels money could be saved by not having a primary and would allow more people to become involved in the process.

Paula Harden – 5805 Melena Court NW. Ms. Harden came forward to speak for rank choice voting as it allows majority of people to have their vote count instead of a popularity contest.

Paul Johnsen - 3328 Knod Lane. Mr. Johnson came forward to speak for rank choice voting. Considers himself a moderate and has been disappointed in past elections and is excited for possibility of Rochester to lead in this area and improve the election process.

With no other comments not related to rank choice voting, open comment period closed.

C. Committee Reports: None

D. Unfinished and Deferred Business:

a. Ranked Choice Voting: Chair Barry opened for discussion on whether or not this is a topic the Commission should consider.

Member Meyerle understands that a Councilmember would like the Commission to do public education and conduct a forum. Meyerle feels this is not the Commission's role.

Member Suhler spoke and indicated he would send this matter to the City Council if it had a reasonable chance to be adopted; however, he feels the Commission is not the appropriate body to take this up.

Deputy City Attorney Goslee spoke about the referendum process for those wishing to collect signatures for a petition. Goslee referred to Minnesota Statute 410.12 on the specific statutory guidelines that need to be met on a Petition in order for the City Clerk to accept it. Member Suhler also pointed out a Minnesota Supreme Court decision from 2009 provides guidance on the petition process and the charter language that is required.

Member Senjem moved that the Charter Commission not take a position on ranked choice voting. Member Marcoux seconded. Motion open for discussion. Upon further comments, Goslee mentioned that previous discussions have been limited to the referendum and council adopted ordinance processes. Goslee outlined a third process involving an amendment initiated by the Council and then submitted to the Commission to review and comment before being placed on the ballot. After further discussion, Chair Barry called for a vote: Aye – 11; Nay – 0; No abstentions. Motion carries.

Member Bradley moved to make clear that Charter Commission would not be sponsoring a public hearing on this topic. Member Meyerle seconded. Open for discussion. Vote: Aye – 10 (Meyerle, Belau, Bradley, Johnson, Eckerman, Podulke, Haeussinger, Marcoux, Hall, Senjem); Nay – 1 (Suhler). No abstentions. Motion carried.

E. New Business: None

F. Other business: None

G. Adjourn: Member Johnson moved to adjourn meeting; seconded by Member Bradley. Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.