



CITY OF FAIRVIEW PARK

20777 Lorain Road
Fairview Park, Ohio 44126-2018
- Established in 1910 -

Eileen Ann Patton, Mayor

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING #9
FEBRUARY 4, 2019 | 6:30 PM
FAIRVIEW PARK CITY HALL, DUNSON COMMUNITY ROOM

Members Present: Ms. Lauren Markus, Mr. Nicholas Alexander, Mr. John Betts, Mr. Matthew J. Cavanagh, Esq., Mr. Pat Cooney, Esq., Mr. J. Patrick Lang, Mr. John Mandula, Ms. Erika Roitblat-Bowers, & Ms. Michelle Sayer

Staff Present: Ms. Monica Rossiter and Mr. Joseph Gibbons, Esq.

The Charter Review Commission meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Roll call was taken. All members were present.

The Commission approved the minutes from meeting #8 on Tuesday, January 17, 2019.

Public comment was opened. No members of the audience were present and public comment was closed.

The Commission began their review of Article X, “Initiative, Referendum, Recall”. The Commission asked if initiatives, referendums, or recalls occur often, to which Mr. Gibbons stated that such actions happen infrequently. The Commission agreed that the existing language for Sections 1, 2, and 3 is sufficient.

The Commission moved to Article XI, “Franchise”. The Commission asked if the duration of twenty-five (25) years for public utility franchises is standard across communities. Mr. Betts, who specializes in Information Technology, indicated that this timeframe is typical in his experience. He continued by providing an overview of how telecommunication franchises work. The Commission agreed that the existing language for Article XI is sufficient.

Next, the Commission discussed Article XII, “Amendments to Charter”. A Commission member questioned whether or not the percentage of electors needed on a petition to make amendments to the Charter should be increased to 20%. After some discussion, the Commission agreed that the existing language for Article XII is sufficient.

The Commission reopened their discussion of gender neutrality as it relates to Article XIII, “General Provisions”. Some Commission members stated that they would like to see “he” replaced with a gender-neutral statement if it is cost effective. Other Commission members stated that they are comfortable with the addition of Section 5, “Gender Neutral”, during the 2008/2009 Charter Review.

The Commission moved to Article XIV, “Charter Review Commission”. A Commission member asked what amendments were made to this article in 2009, to which it was stated that the language pertaining to the City Council vote was changed to “a majority plus one of its members” and the same amendment was made to other sections of the Charter during the 2008/2009 Charter Review. No changes were proposed for Article XIV.

The Commission moved on to Article XV, “Executive Session” – the final article in the Charter. A Commission member pointed out that this article references State statute, which has been discussed in relation to the possible

amendments of other Charter sections. No changes were proposed for this article, which wrapped up the Commission's preliminary review of the Charter.

The Commission discussed the structure of the Commission, including the role of City staff, and determined that no changes are necessary.

Chairperson Markus discussed next steps for the review of the Charter, which include the review and discussion of all open items and preliminary recommendations. During their review, the Commission will determine methods for implementation and draft specific ballot language. It was decided that a draft of the Commission's recommendations will first be submitted to the directors to solicit feedback prior to the submission to City Council.

Discussion ended and Chairperson Markus stated that open items from all articles of the Charter will be reviewed and discussed during the next meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

Public comment was opened. No members of the audience were present and public comment was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.