

City of Aurora, Ohio
2014 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2014

The 2014 Charter Review Commission of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 17, 2014 for the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Law Director Dean DePiero called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jane Adams
William Keckan
Charisse Louis
Dale Moravec
Nancy Schnell
Liz Sutter
Mary Thomas
Richard Vlasak

Absent: Dr. Larry Oswick

Also Present: Dean DePiero, Law Director
Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council

Swearing-In of Commission Members

Law Director DePiero administered the Oath to all Commission members.

Mr. DePiero asked the members to introduce themselves.

Review of the Ohio Ethics Law

Mr. DePiero provided a brief explanation of the ethics material included in the handouts. He also touched on various sections Ohio's Open Meetings Law regarding requirements for open meetings, notice requirements and the definition of a public body. Mr. DePiero suggested to the members that they review the documents.

Nominations & Elections

Nominations for Chairman

Mr. DePiero opened the floor for nominations. Ms. Thomas nominated Dr. Oswick for Chairman; Ms. Adams seconded the nomination.

Election of Chairman

MOTION: To close the nominations for Chairman

Mr. Keckan moved; Ms. Adams seconded. Dr. Oswick was elected Chairman of the 2014 Charter Review Commission by a unanimous voice vote.

Nominations for Vice Chairman

Mr. DePiero opened the floor for nominations. Ms. Thomas nominated Mr. Moravec for Vice Chairman; Ms. Schnell seconded the nomination.

Election of Vice Chairman

MOTION: To close the nominations for Vice Chairman

Ms. Adams moved; Mr. Keckan seconded. Mr. Moravec was elected Vice Chairman of the 2014 Charter Review Commission by a unanimous voice vote.

Role of the Charter Review Commission – Objectives & Timelines

Mr. DePiero read and discussed Article XX, Section 20.01 – Composition and Terms and Section 20.02 – Duties. He said that the Administration and City Council will submit their recommendations for changes to the Commission. Mr. DePiero briefly discussed the purpose of the Charter and the Codified Ordinances. He explained when it is more appropriate for an item to be addressed in the Codified Ordinances rather than in the Charter. Mr. Moravec suggested the Charter be divided into sections and each member would be given a section to review.

Mr. DePiero explained the deadline for putting an item on the ballot for November. He said that items to be on the November ballot should be before Council on June 23. Mr. DePiero said if the Commission determines more time is needed they have the option of the items appearing on the May 2015 ballot.

Commission members stressed the importance of citizen input as well as input from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Vlasak suggested using the city website to encourage citizen participation. He stressed the importance of having citizens involved.

Mr. DePiero stated it would be ideal if the Commission had everything done by June 16.

Establish Meeting Dates & Times

The members agreed to set the next meeting for Monday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: To schedule the next Charter Review Commission meeting for March 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Vlasak moved; Ms. Louis seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. DePiero stated that a schedule for future meetings will be worked out.

Mr. Vlasak suggested a direct mailing to the public informing them of the meetings and to encourage their participation. Ms. Louis said the Chamber publishes a newsletter and that perhaps something could be included in that. Mr. DePiero said the Mayor has a newsletter that will be going to the residents in the near future and possibly that something could be included regarding citizen involvement.

Discussion of Procedural Rules

Mr. DePiero reviewed the Procedural Rules. He said the biggest challenge in front of the Commission is getting everything organized.

There were no objections to the proposed Ground Rules.

Preferred Method of Communication

The Commission members agreed to work electronically.

Citizens Comments

There were none

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn

Ms. Sutter moved; Ms. Adams seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Dean DePiero, Law Director

Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council