

CHARTER COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Tuesday, November 24, 2009

Commission member Robert Vogler called the meeting to order.

Election of Officers

Pat Uliano motioned to table the organization portion of the meeting due to the absence of Jack Cronin, who is hospitalized. Seconded by Dorothy Kalil.

Motion failed 4-4

Election of Chair

Dorothy Kalil made a motion to appoint Joseph Pappalardo as Chairman. Seconded by Pat Uliano. Vote: UNANIMOUS

Election of Vice-Chair

Pat Uliano motioned to appoint Dorothy Kalil as Vice-Chairperson. Seconded by Maureen Donovan.

Robert Vogler motioned to appoint Dennis DiZoglio as Vice-Chairperson. Seconded by Barbara Grondine.

Vote taken on Dorothy Kalil – Dennis DiZoglio voted for D. Kalil. Robert Vogler withdrew his motion for Dennis DiZoglio. Unanimous vote for Dorothy Kalil as Vice-Chair

Election of Clerk

Maureen Donovan motioned to appoint Kenneth Bourassa as Clerk. Seconded by Barbara Grondine. Vote: UNANIMOUS

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion by: Joseph Pappalardo, seconded by Maureen Donovan to accept the agenda.
UPON VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Discussion on next public hearing for December 10, 2009

Chair Joseph Pappalardo suggested the need to secure the Great Hall for meetings with TV coverage. The City Clerk provided notification of Tuesday or Thursday for commission meetings. Discussion ensued relative to the Great Hall's availability for those dates. The consensus of the committee seems to be a Wednesday evening rather than a Tuesday or Thursday due to conflicting schedules with members or the Great Hall's availability due to School Committee or City Council meetings sometimes scheduled for Tuesdays. The Commission agreed to December 10, 2009 for the next meeting, if the Great hall is available. Jeanne Pappalardo notified the committee she had sent a memo to the Mayor regarding the Great Hall's scheduled meetings. The Committee agreed to once a month for meetings.

Dennis DiZoglio passed out a proposed agenda for review and suggested a meeting with the Mayor, seeking advice from an attorney, as well as getting someone to research existing statutes relative to charter commission procedures. He also suggested that the commission meet with Marilyn Contraris from Community Development who has knowledge and experience regarding charter commissions.

There was an informal discussion regarding the use of a private solicitor, a secretary and the affordability of both.

Pat Uliano suggested using a tape recorder to record the meetings and one of the Council secretary's type them up as was done when the sewer/water task force met.

Robert Vogler thought that was a good idea in order to save money. Joseph Pappalardo will look into the matter.

There was a general informal discussion on the use of City's website for the minutes of the charter commission's meetings as well as supplying the City Clerk with copies of them for public pick up. The use of City e-mail was also discussed.

Joseph Pappalardo questioned how the committee should review the charter and input from citizens.

Pat Uliano suggested homework for the committee should be to read the first 15 pages of the existing charter before the next public hearing. Informal discussion by several members with no one objecting to Pat Uliano's suggestion.

Joseph Pappalardo opened the floor for public participation.

Phil Lahey questioned how changes in the charter draft would be formulated? He wanted to know if changes would be individualized on the ballot or if it would be one package for adoption by the voters?

Informal discussion ensued with no definite answers. Many suppositions.

Gerry McCall wondered if the commission should provide the charter in Spanish as well as English. Some committee members didn't think that was feasible due to cost. No formal vote taken.

Jack Burke stated that as far as the ballot question in 2011, the question will be to accept or reject the new charter and would not be individual questions on the changes for voter approval.

Informal discussion occurred. Committee disturbed voters may not have the necessary information to vote on the charter as a whole. A legal opinion will be sought.

Robert Vogler thought the Committee should encourage out put on the charter commission to the Senior Center, Rainbow Club, etc.

Barbara Grondine also suggested giving information to the library, and clerk's office to encourage public input.

Maureen Donovan expressed concern about the public approval of any changes made to the charter and wants to be sure they know what changes are being made before the final vote in 2011.

Ken Bourassa agreed with Phil Lahey and thinks each question should be separate for voters on the 2011 ballot.

Barbara Grondine thought the ballot would be very long if all changes were individualized.

Informal discussion by members and some public attendees.

Adjourn

MOTION BY: Maureen Donovan, seconded by Dorothy Kalil to adjourn.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Dorothy Kalil, Vice-Chair