

**MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION  
2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

To: The Honorable Judge Lucy Wieland, Chief Judge  
Hennepin County District Court

From: Jim Bernstein, Chair  
Minneapolis Charter Commission

## **1. MEMBERSHIP**

In January, 2006, there were 15 members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission. During 2006, the following changes took place in the membership:

- Karen Dziejdzic's term expired on March 26, 2006, and she chose not to be reappointed
- Brian Melendez' term expired on March 26, 2006, and he chose not to be reappointed
- Gary Thaden's term expired on March 26, 2006, and he chose not to be reappointed
- James Theurer's term expired on March 26, 2006, and he chose not to be reappointed
- Karen Collier resigned on May 3, 2006
- Margaret Dolan was reappointed on May 22, 2006
- Jana Metge was reappointed on May 22, 2006
- Aaron Street was appointed on May 22, 2006
- Andrea Rubenstein was appointed on May 22, 2006
- Kristy Remme was appointed on May 22, 2006
- Corbin Connell was appointed on May 22, 2006
- Ian Stade was appointed on June 7, 2006 to fill the unexpired term of Karen Collier
- Susan Ponsford resigned on November 30, 2006

The year ended with a membership of 14 Commissioners.

Appendix I, attached, shows the roster as of December 31, 2006, with relevant data regarding appointments, terms, and expiration dates.

## **2. OFFICERS**

Officers were elected on January 4, 2006, as follows:

- Jim Bernstein, Chair
- Barry Lazarus, Vice Chair
- Barry Clegg, Secretary

### **3. STAFF**

Assistance was provided by the following City staff:

- Burt Osborne                      Assistant City Attorney
- Mary Al Balber                    Assistant City Attorney
- Lisa Needham                     Assistant City Attorney
- Cindy Reichert                    Director of Elections
- Peggy Menshek                    Council Committee Coordinator

### **4. MEETINGS**

The Charter Commission held eleven regular meetings in 2006. (The July 6 meeting was cancelled.) In addition to the regular meetings, public hearings were held on January 18 and February 1 to receive public comment relating to the 8th Draft of revisions to the Minneapolis City Charter. The public hearings were held at the following locations:

- January 18 - Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Headquarters
- February 1 - Martin Luther King Park

### **5. ATTENDANCE**

Appendix II, attached, shows the attendance record of Commissioners during 2006.

### **6. RULES**

There were no revisions to the Charter Commission's Rules during 2006.

### **7. ISSUES CONSIDERED**

- 8th Draft of revisions to the Minneapolis City Charter - two public hearings were held to accept public comment (January 18 and February 1)
- Instant Runoff Voting - Approved summary language to accompany petition to place a question regarding Instant Runoff Voting on the November ballot (January 4)
- Approved 9th Draft of revisions to the Minneapolis Charter (February 8, 2006)
- Transmitted to the City Council a summary report by Commissioner Melendez of 9th Draft of revisions to the Minneapolis City Charter and a side-by-side comparison (June 7)

- Rejected an amendment proposed by the City Council amending Chapter 2 of the Minneapolis City Charter, placing a proposal on the 2006 ballot to eliminate primary elections for City offices, amend filing dates, and allow for Single Transferable Vote, Ranked Choice Voting, or Instant Runoff Voting (June 7 and August 2)
- Accepted an amendment proposed by the City Council amending Chapters 3, 8, 10, and 16 of the Minneapolis City Charter, establishing a Department of Public Works and creating the position of Director of Public Works, for referral to the City Council for adoption by unanimous vote (September 6)
- Referred to Former Commissioner Brian Melendez for review the City Attorney's analysis of the 9th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (September 6)
- Formed two subcommittees to review the City Attorney's analysis of the 9th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (December 6)

## **8. RESEARCH ISSUES**

No research information was requested by the Charter Commissioners.

## **9. SPEAKERS**

The following people addressed the Charter Commission in 2006:

- Tony Solgard, President, FairVote Minnesota, regarding Instant Runoff Voting (January 4)
- Brian Rice, legal counsel representing the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, regarding the 8th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (January 4 and February 8)
- James Michels, legal counsel representing the Minneapolis Board of Business Agents, regarding the 8th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (January 4 and February 8)
- Deb Banish, Minneapolis Library Board Representative, regarding the 8th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (January 4)
- Cheryl Luger, 4936 37th Avenue South, regarding the 8th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (January 4)
- Annie Young, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner, regarding the 8th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (February 8)
- John H. Herman, Faegre & Benson, on behalf of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, regarding the 8th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (February 8)
- Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator, introduced himself to the Charter Commissioners (April 5)
- Former Commissioner Brian Melendez, regarding his report on the 9th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (June 7)
- Cindy Reichert, Minneapolis Director of Elections, regarding Instant Runoff Voting (June 7 and August 2)

- Merry Keefe, Minneapolis City Clerk, regarding Instant Runoff Voting (June 7)
- Steve Cross, 900 East River Terrace, regarding Instant Runoff Voting (August 2)
- Tony Solgard, President, FairVote Minnesota, regarding Instant Runoff Voting (August 2)
- Elizabeth Glidden, Eighth Ward City Council Member and Chair of the Minneapolis Elections Committee, regarding Instant Runoff Voting (August 2)
- Peter Wagenius, Senior Policy Aide, Mayor Rybak's Office, regarding ordinance amendments establishing a Department of Public Works and creating the position of Director of Public Works (September 6)
- Pam French, Director of Human Resources, regarding ordinance amendments establishing a Department of Public Works and creating the position of Director of Public Works (September 6)
- Betsy Hodges, Thirteenth Ward City Council Member and Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, regarding ordinance amendments establishing a Department of Public Works and creating the position of Director of Public Works (September 6)
- Barret Lane, 5775 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 600, regarding the City Attorney's review of the 9th Draft of revisions to the City Charter (September 6)

Public Hearings were held on January 18 and February 1 relating to the 8th Draft of revisions to the City Charter. The following individuals addressed the Commission at these Public Hearings:

- Annie Young, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner (January 18)
- Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner (January 18)
- Jon Gurban, Superintendent, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (January 18)
- Cheryl Luger, 4936 37th Avenue South (January 18)
- Mary Merrill Anderson, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner (January 18)
- Brian Rice, legal counsel for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (January 18)
- Tom Thornberg, President, Fire Fighters Local 82 (January 18)
- Jill Kielblock, Business Representative, AFSCME Minnesota, Council 5 (January 18)
- James Michels, legal counsel for the Minneapolis Board of Business Agents (January 18)
- Joan Niemiec, representing the Minneapolis League of Women Voters (January 18)
- John H. Herman, Faegre & Benson, on behalf of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (February 1)
- Lisa Vecoli, Community Relations Manager, Minneapolis Institute of Arts (February 1)
- Carol Wilson, 2123 Aldrich Avenue South (February 1)

## 10. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY PETITION

There were no Charter amendments by petition in 2006.

Tony Solgard, President, FairVote Minnesota, submitted proposed language to begin a petition process in an effort to change election procedures, eliminating primary elections for City offices, amending filing dates, and allowing for Single Transferable Vote, sometimes known as Ranked Choice Voting or Instant Runoff Voting. The Charter Commission reviewed the summary language. The petition effort was abandoned in lieu of the City Council proposing the amendment by referendum.

## 11. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY ORDINANCE

The following Charter amendments were adopted by the Minneapolis City Council on September 1, 2006:

Ordinances amending Chapter 3 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *Powers and Duties of Officers*:

- a. Section 4, amending the power of the executive committee on appointments and removals.
- b. Section 8, amending the existence of the City Engineer as the head of the Public Works Department by creating a Department of Public Works and a Director of Public Works.
- c. Section 9, amending the powers of the City Engineer and providing the duties and powers of the Director of Public Works.
- d. Section 10, amending the maintenance of surveys, plans and estimates.

Ordinances amending Chapter 8 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *Public Highways and Bridges*:

- a. Section 2, amending the way profiles and grades are maintained and the staff who will provide advice to the Commissioners.
- b. Section 6, repealing so that the City Engineer is not responsible for grading and construction of public ways.
- c. Section 7, amending so that the Director of Publics Works cannot have interest in contracts.
- d. Section 8, amending who is prohibited from accepting bribes.
- e. Section 13, amending by providing duties of the Director of Public Works regarding the repair of sidewalks.
- f. Section 14, amending by providing the Department of Public Works is responsible for sidewalk repairs.
- g. Section 22, amending the location of copies of plats.

Ordinance amending Chapter 9, Section 5 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *Water Works*, amending the location for the preservation of records and the certification of the cost of construction.

Ordinances amending Chapter 10 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *Local Improvements—Assessments*:

- a. Section 1, amending the process for proposing suitable land for public improvements.
- b. Section 5, amending the street improvement process by having the Department of Public Works provide advice and assistance instead of the Engineer.
- c. Section 8, amending the local improvement process by having the Department of Public Works provide assistance instead of the Engineer.
- d. Section 10, amending the sidewalk building process by having the Department of Public Works provide a description of property and cost estimate instead of the Engineer.
- e. Section 15, amending who certifies that an improvement has been made by the owner of a property.
- f. Section 29, amending who must work with the Auditor regarding improvements.

Ordinances amending Chapter 16 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *Parks and Parkways*:

- a. Section 2, amending the location for the filing of plats of the Park and Recreation Board.
- b. Section 3, amending the location for the filing of plats for land condemned by the Park and Recreation Board.
- c. Section 15, amending reference to the process used by the City in building sidewalks and assessing for the construction.

*Subject matter* of an ordinance amending Chapter 19, Section 4 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *Civil Service*, amending the unclassified service to include the Director of Public Works and eliminate the City Engineer.

## **12. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY REFERENDUM**

The following Charter amendments were adopted by referendum on November 7, 2006:

- a) Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to Officers--Elections, eliminating primary elections for City offices, amending filing dates, and allowing for Single Transferable Vote, sometimes known as Ranked Choice Voting or Instant Runoff Voting, amending Charter Section 16 regarding Vacancy in Office of Mayor or Council Members--How Filled, correcting the term "general" election which was used in the original introduction to refer to "special" election; and

- b) Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to Officers--Elections, eliminating primary elections for City offices, amending filing dates, and allowing for Single Transferable Vote, sometimes known as Ranked Choice Voting or Instant Runoff Voting, amending Charter Section 15 regarding General Laws to Govern Elections--Exceptions, by adding the language: "Notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter relating to Instant Runoff Voting" at the beginning of that paragraph.

**Appendix I**  
**2006 MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION ROSTER**

Commissioner	Phone	Appointed Date Appointed By	Term	Expiration Date
Bernstein, James		05/17/1999 - Judge Mabley 06/27/2000 - Judge Mabley 07/22/2004 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of David Fisher First term Serving second term	July 1, 2000 July 1, 2004 July 1, 2008
Bujold, Tyrone		07/16/2004 - Judge Burke	Serving first term	July 1, 2008
Clegg, Barry	(h) 612-378-2585 (o) 612-340-7934 (f) 612-340-7900	05/2003 - Judge Burke	Serving first term	May 1, 2007
Connell, Corbin	(h) 612-964-4706 (o) 612-667-4076	03/26/06 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010
Dolan, Margaret	(h) 612-866-0837	10/20/1998 - Judge Mabley 04/29/2002 - Judge Burke 05/22/2006 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of Francis Connolly Serving first term Serving second term	March 26, 2002 March 26, 2006 March 26, 2010
Ferrara, Todd	(c) 612-685-2095 (f) 612-436-2300	03/19/2004 - Judge Burke 07/21/2004 - Judge Burke	Filled unexpired term of Pete Rhodes Serving first term	July 1, 2004 July 1, 2008
Klassen, John		09/10/2004 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	July 1, 2008
Lazarus, Barry	(h) 612-377-2232 (o) 612-339-8921 x1440 (o) 612-746-1946	05/2003 - Judge Burke 07/30/2004 - Judge Burke	Filled unexpired term of Steven Pihlaja Serving first term	June 1, 2004 June 1, 2008
Lichty, Marshall	(o) 612-347-9161 (f) 612-877-3123	09/10/2004 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	July 1, 2008
Metge, Jana	(h) 612-721-7640 (o) 612-874-9002 (o) 952-996-6490	05/2003 - Judge Burke 05/22/2006 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of Steven Johnson Serving first term	March 26, 2006 March 26, 2010
Ponsford, Sue	(h) 612-822-7112 (o) 651-632-7229 (f) 651-647-1216	06/22/2004 - Judge Burke	Serving first term	July 1, 2008  <b>Resigned 11/30/06.</b>
Remme, Kristy	(h) 612-521-2696 (o) 612-879-3190 (c) 651-398-9756	03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010

Commissioner	Phone	Appointed Date Appointed By	Term	Expiration Date
Rubenstein, Andrea	(h) 612-822-8943 (o) 612-871-5500	03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010
Stade, Ian	(h) 612-532-8288 (o) 612-630-6455	06/07/2006- Judge Wieland	Serving unexpired term of Karen Collier	May 1, 2007
Street, Aaron	(h) 612-824-0982 (o) 651-292-8770	03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010

**Staff:** Lisa Needham      Assistant City Attorney      612-673-2429      [lisa.needham@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:lisa.needham@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)  
Cindy Reichert      Director of Elections      612-673-2073      [cindy.reichert@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cindy.reichert@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)  
Peggy Menshek      Charter Commission Coordinator      612-673-2287      [peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)



Name	01/04	02/08	03/01	04/05	05/03	06/07	07/05	08/02	09/06	10/04	11/01	12/06
Aaron Street										E	A	E
Gary Thaden												
James Theurer				E	E							

In addition to the scheduled meetings, Public Hearings were held on January 18 and February 1 to receive public comment on the 8th Draft of revisions to the Minneapolis City Charter.