

## MINUTES

### **Minneapolis Charter Commission**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2004 - 4:00 p.m.

Commission Members present: Bernstein, Collier, Dolan, Lazarus, Masica, Melendez, Metge

Excused: Clegg, Dziedzic, Fraser, Leitschuh, Thaden, Theurer

Also present: Bert Osborne, Assistant City Attorney.

Chair Bernstein called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in Room 319 City Hall, Minneapolis, MN.

**1. Roll Call** 7 present; 6 excused.

#### **2. Adopt Agenda**

Dolan moved that the agenda be adopted. Seconded.  
Adopted upon a voice vote.

#### **3. Approve Minutes of February 4, 2004**

Lazarus moved approval of the Minutes. Seconded.  
Adopted upon a voice vote.

#### **4. Revisions to City Charter:**

Update

Melendez reported that the Revisions have gone through the Articles Committees and the Editing Committees and will be ready for a formal vote at the May meeting. As the draft revisions are circulated, he will recommend that motions relating to policy issues be circulated prior to May.

The comments received from Brian Rice, Park Board, have been circulated to the Articles Committees. The only substantive issue with the Park Board is the appointment of the Superintendent and the Charter does not speak to that issue.

Bert Osborne will research City Attorney opinions provided to the Charter Commission. Of particular interest would be an opinion relating to the appointing authority of the Park Board being subject to Mayoral veto.

The April agenda will include a discussion of the voting procedures for Charter sections or chapters.

#### **5. Status of Vacancies: Update**

Chief Judge Kevin Burke has appointed Gene Martinez, 5042 41st Avenue South, Minneapolis 55417, to the Charter Commission to fill an unexpired term of Joseph Bester ending July 1, 2004. An "Acceptance and Oath of Charter Commission Members" has been sent to Mr. Martinez for his notarized signature.

**6. Council Study Session of February 20, 2004**

Follow up report

Bernstein thanked Melendez for his brilliant, well researched, well thought out, articulate, well reasoned and inspiring presentation to the Council Members.

Melendez appreciated the presence of many of the Charter Commissioners for this presentation.

Council Members attending this Study Session were Ostrow, Zerby, Johnson, Zimmermann, Goodman's Assistant Douglas Kress, Lilligren, Niziolek, Benson, Lane. Goodman's Assistant Douglas Kress was present along with representatives from the Mayor's office and various labor unions. Council Members present volunteered to update those not in attendance.

Council Members not present were Samuels, Johnson Lee, Goodman, Schiff, Colvin Roy.

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The City Clerk's office is working on including the proposed Charter amendments on the City's web site.

Council Member Lane has stated that he will speak to Intergovernmental Relations Chair Benson about an exemption from publication of the Charter amendments. The Mayor's office also will join him in that endeavor. Melendez will also speak to Benson about this issue. It is hoped that an exemption would allow for publication of a notice stating where to access the Charter revisions.

Melendez presented a copy of the bill for the proposed Charter revisions given to Brian Rice for the Park Board. Consideration will be given to reimbursement for the remaining copying costs.

Melendez moved to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.

Jan Hrcir  
Chief Council Committee Coordinator