

**MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION
2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

To: The Honorable James Swenson, Chief Judge
Hennepin County District Court

From: Jim Bernstein, Chair
Minneapolis Charter Commission

1. MEMBERSHIP

In January, 2008, there were 15 members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission. During 2008, the following changes took place in the membership:

- Jim Bernstein was reappointed for a two-year term to expire July 1, 2010
- Tyrone Bujold was reappointed for a two-year term to expire July 1, 2010
- Todd Ferrara was reappointed for a two-year term to expire July 1, 2010
- John Klassen was reappointed for a two-year term to expire July 1, 2010
- Barry Lazarus was reappointed for a two-year term to expire June 1, 2010
- Marshall Lichty was reappointed for a two-year term to expire July 1, 2010

The year ended with a membership of 15 Commissioners.

Appendix I, attached, shows the roster as of December 31, 2008, with relevant data regarding appointments, terms, and expiration dates.

2. OFFICERS

Officers were elected on January 2, 2008, as follows:

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

3. STAFF

Assistance was provided by the following City staff:

- Lisa Needham, Assistant City Attorney
- Cindy Reichert, Assistant City Clerk, Elections
- Peggy Menshek, Council Committee Coordinator

4. MEETINGS

The Charter Commission held 9 regular meetings in 2008. (The June 4, 2008 and November 5, 2008 meetings were cancelled. No official business took place at the October 1, 2008 meeting due to lack of a quorum.)

5. ATTENDANCE

Appendix II, attached, shows the attendance record of Commissioners during 2008.

6. RULES

There were no revisions to the Charter Commission's Rules during 2008.

7. ISSUES CONSIDERED

- Charter Revision Project, Draft 10 (January 2, 2008; February 6, 2008; April 2, 2008; May 7, 2008)
- Charter Revision Project, Draft 11 (July 9, 2008; August 6, 2008; September 3, 2008; December 3, 2008)
- Conflict of interest as it relates to the position of Charter Commissioner (January 2, 2008)
- Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Section 1 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *City Planning Department - Commissioner and Membership*, eliminating the Library Board Representative on the City Planning Commission and adding a representative appointed by the City Council, referred to the City Council for a 13-0 vote (February 6, 2008)

8. RESEARCH ISSUES

No research information was requested by the Charter Commissioners.

9. SPEAKERS

The following people addressed the Charter Commission in 2008:

- Gary Schiff, 9th Ward Council Member, regarding ordinance amending Chapter 13, Section 1 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *City Planning Department - Commissioner and Membership*, eliminating the Library Board Representative on the City Planning Commission and adding a representative appointed by the City Council. (February 6, 2008)
- Barb Sporlein, Director of Planning, Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), regarding ordinance amending Chapter 13, Section 1 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *City Planning Department - Commissioner and Membership*, eliminating the Library Board Representative on the City Planning Commission and adding a representative appointed by the City Council. (February 6, 2008)
- Former Commissioner Brian Melendez, regarding the proposed Charter Revision (May 7, 2008; July 9, 2008; August 6, 2008; September 3, 2008; December 3, 2008)
- Cheryl Luger, 12th Ward Resident, regarding acknowledgements listed in the proposed Charter Revision (July 9, 2008; August 6, 2008)
- Michael Katch, 8th Ward Resident, regarding proposed Charter Revision relating to the Board of Estimate and Taxation, bonding/renewable energy, Library Board, and public utilities (July 9, 2008; August 6, 2008)

10. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY PETITION

There were no Charter amendments by petition in 2008.

11. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY ORDINANCE

The following Charter amendment was adopted by a 13-0 vote of the Minneapolis City Council on February 29, 2008:

- Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Section 1 of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *City Planning Department - Commissioner and Membership*, eliminating the Library Board Representative on the City Planning Commission and adding a representative appointed by the City Council.

12. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY REFERENDUM

There were no Charter amendments by referendum in 2008.

Appendix I

2008 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 04/30/2008	Filled unexpired term of David Fisher First term Serving second term Serving third term	July 1, 2000 July 1, 2004 July 1, 2008 July 1, 2010
Bujold, Tyrone		07/16/2004 - Judge Burke 04/30/2008 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term Serving second term	July 1, 2008 July 1, 2010
Clegg, Barry		05/2003 - Judge Burke 4/20/2007 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term Serving second term	May 1, 2007 May 1, 2011
Connell, Corbin		03/26/06 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010
Dolan, Margaret		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		03/19/2004 - Judge Burke 07/21/2004 - Judge Burke 04/30/2008 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of Pete Rhodes Serving first term Serving second term	July 1, 2004 July 1, 2008 July 1, 2010
Jancik, Thomas		02/28/2007 - Judge Wieland	Filling unexpired term of Susan Ponsford Serving first term	Feb. 26, 2011
Klassen, John		09/10/2004 - Judge Wieland 04/30/2008 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term Serving second term	July 1, 2008 July 1, 2010
Lazarus, Barry		05/2003 - Judge Burke 07/30/2004 - Judge Burke 04/30/2008 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of Steven Pihlaja Serving first term Serving second term	June 1, 2004 June 1, 2008 June 1, 2010
Lichty, Marshall		09/10/2004 - Judge Wieland 04/30/2008 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term Serving second term	July 1, 2008 July 1, 2010
Metge, Jana		05/2003 - Judge Burke 05/22/2006 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of Steven Johnson Serving first term	March 26, 2006 March 26, 2010
Remme, Kristy		03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010
Rubenstein, Andrea		03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010
Stade, Ian		06/07/2006 - Judge Wieland 04/30/2007 - Judge Wieland	Serving unexpired term of Karen Collier Serving first term	May 1, 2007 May 1, 2011
Street, Aaron		03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010

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Appendix II
MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION
2008 ATTENDANCE RECORD

(Code: Blank = Present; A = Absent; E = Excused)

Name	01/02	02/06	03/05	04/02	05/07	06/04	07/09	08/06	09/03	10/01	11/05	12/03
James Bernstein		E						A				E
Tyrone Bujold	E							E				
Barry Clegg	A		A									
Corbin Connell			E		E				E			
Margaret Dolan			A	E	A			E	E			
Todd Ferrara												
Thomas Jancik			E				E			E		E
John Klassen				E			E			E		
Barry Lazarus					E					E		A
Marshall Lichty												E
Jana Metge				E			E	E		E		E
Kristi Remme								E	E	E		
Andrea Rubenstein										E		
Ian Stade	E		E		E		E		A	A		
Aaron Street	E							E		E		E

The June 4 and November 5, 2008, meetings were cancelled. No official business took place at the October 1, 2008, meeting due to lack of a quorum.