

## Advisory Group Committee Issues

### A. Advisory Group Member Qualifications

1. “. . . eligible voters of the City of Minneapolis.” (Charter)
  - *Eligible voters: not necessarily registered*
  - Secretary of State Election Judge Guide: “To be eligible to vote, a person must be 18 years of age or older on the day of the election, a United States citizen, and have maintained residence in Minnesota for 20 days preceding the election. Individuals may not register if they have been convicted of a felony and their felony sentence has not expired (been completed) and their civil rights have not been restored, or if they are under a court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes their right to vote.”
    - *Age as of May 1, 2011? Last election (so eligible to vote in last election)?*
  - *Are there other requirements for AG membership?*
    - *Conversant in English?--Election judges must be able to “read, write and speak English.” If not a requirement here, how do we plan to accommodate?*
    - *Are we able to accommodate a member who is deaf or blind?*
2. “Applicants shall not currently be or within two years previous to appointment, have been, an elected official of municipal, county, state or federal government, nor an employee of a political party, nor a candidate, in a primary or general election, for a public office for which the ballot indicates a political party designation of candidates, nor an employee of City government.” (Charter)
  - *Get final resolution on election judges as employees*
  - *Set “date of appointment” to May 2011? So the period would be May 2009 – May 2011*
3. “persons . . .who will bring diversity to the Redistricting Group” (Principles)
4. “persons . . .who . . . are active citizens. (Principles)
5. “persons . . .who . . . have knowledge of the many communities within the city (Principles)
6. “persons . . .who . . . will serve on a non-partisan basis. (Principles)

- Job Description

All of the eligibility requirements should be included in the job description, some yes/no items, possibly some as essay?

- Amendment: “The City Clerk will receive all applications to serve on the Advisory Group.”
- *What if the State does not finish by May 2011?*
  - *The job description should advise of the possibility that redistricting may start in the period May 2011 and April 2012. If 2012, state primary is August 14, 2012—19 weeks before is April 3, 2012. “The wards must be redistricted within 60 days after the legislature has been redistricted or at least 19 weeks before the state primary election in the year ending in 2, WHICHEVER IS FIRST”*

- *Replacing members of the Advisory Group:* avoid re-opening the process; rank order candidates #10-#18 and use to replace any members who withdraw.

## **II. Principles to follow by the Charter Commission in Choosing Members of the Advisory Group**

A. The appointment process for members of the Advisory Group to work with the Charter Commission to redistrict the Minneapolis Wards and Park Districts will begin in early 2011.

*Could this be earlier, in December 2010?*

B. Prior to the appointment process, the Charter Commission or a committee of Commissioners will write a proposed job description and an application form which persons interested in serving on the Advisory Group will be asked to complete. This is an open process and all information on the application form will be public information.

*Use the principles in III below to develop the job description. From II: The Charter Commission will be looking for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee who will bring diversity to the Redistricting Group, are active citizens, have knowledge of the many communities within the city, and will serve on a non-partisan basis.*

*Finalize strategy to solicit input for public meeting and to distribute final job description and application.*

*Meet December – January 2011. All meetings must be posted on the Charter Commission website, open to the public in an accessible location with materials for the public.*

C. The Charter Commission or a committee of Commissioners will hold a citywide meeting with the citizens to discuss the proposed job description and the application form for prospective members of the Advisory Group.

*Determine if we can provide services for deaf or blind members of the public at public meetings. What about regular committee meetings?*

*Assume that the draft first goes to the public meeting and only then to Charter Commission.*

D. The Charter Commission or a committee of Commissioners will review the citizens' input and will finalize the job description and the application form for prospective members of the Advisory Group. The Charter Commission will approve the job description and the application form to be used to select Advisory Group members.

*Finalize for February 2, 2011 Charter Commission meeting.*

E. The Charter Commission will follow the procedure outlined in the Charter amendment to choose the members of the Advisory Group. The public will be notified through the city's website, and other available means, where and when the applications for the Advisory Group are available, the final date applications will be received, and the eligibility requirements for membership on the Advisory Group. Members must be eligible voters in the city of Minneapolis and meet the other requirements of the City Charter. The application period will be open for at least 45 days.

*Post immediately (February 3, 2011), leaving 45 days open which would mean to start reviewing (public meetings) March 21, start interviews (public interviews) March 28?*

*The subcommittee reviews interview results around April 18 (public meeting) and final list could then go to the Charter Commission for the May 4 meeting.*

F. The Charter Commission may appoint a committee of the body or use the Commission itself to review all applications, identify persons eligible under the Charter and recommend to the Charter Commission persons for the Advisory Committee. The process will be done in public meetings with the public being notified of the time, date and place of the public meetings. The Charter Commission will be looking for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee who will bring diversity to the Redistricting Group, are active citizens, have knowledge of the many communities within the city, and will serve on a non-partisan basis.

G. The Advisory Group is intended to bring added diversity and citizens' participation to the redistricting process.

H. Persons applying for and members chosen to serve on the Advisory Group will always keep in mind that the Redistricting Group (Charter Commissioners and the Advisory Group) will be operating in a nonpartisan manner. Therefore members of the Advisory Group, being an integrated part of the Redistricting Group, will operate in a non-partisan manner. They are citizens representing all the citizens of the city.

### **III. Principles to follow in drafting the role of the Advisory Group**

A. There will be an orientation meeting for the Advisory Group and the Charter Commission, after the members of the Advisory Group are chosen, at which time the City Attorney will be asked to brief the Redistricting Group on its duties.

#### *Timing?*

B. Subject to III(E), the Advisory Group and the Charter Commission will sit together as one group to draw the new Minneapolis Wards and Park Board Districts based on the City Charter.

C. Advisory Group members will help develop the process and rules for the Redistricting Group and then participate in the process of redistricting.

D. Advisory Group members should participate on an equal basis with members of the Charter Commission in discussing and drawing maps for the redistricting of Minneapolis Wards and Park Districts.

E. The members of the Advisory Group may vote on any matter or maps that come before the Redistricting Group, except for the final map, which must be approved by a majority of the Charter Commissioners at a duly called meeting of the Charter Commission.

F. Advisory Group members are expected to participate in all meetings with the public that are scheduled by the Redistricting Group.

G. At all times the Advisory Group members will be non-partisan and will only represent all the citizens of Minneapolis.