

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

A meeting of the Charter Review Commission was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 in the Employees' Lounge, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Michael Mulcahy, Chair; Randall Jackvony, Vice-Chair; Holly Scripsack, Ronald D'Agostino, Frank Mattiucci, Steven Carrera, John DeGenova; Alfred Notarianni, Simeone Parente; Nathan Canaan and Francis Donahue.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Mr. Carrera, seconded by Mr. D'Agostino, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Section 7.08(g)(1) -

Chair stated that at the last meeting, the Committee made a motion to delete the requirement of advertising in a newspaper for sale of City items. After the meeting, he thought about this and thought maybe in addition to posting for bids on the City's website, a requirement could be added having a requirement that it also has to be posted on an internet vending service, such as e-bay or craigslist. Mr. DeGenova stated that these types of vendors may charge.

Chair indicated that just placing the ad on the website is not enough to help insure a good price.

Mr. Carrera suggested a generic announcement could be posted on vendors, such as craigslist or e-bay to direct people to the City's website.

Mr. DeGenova and Mr. Mattiucci indicated that an item listed for sale on the website would remain on the website until the item is sold.

Chair stated that there is no language stating the amount of time the ad stays posted on the City's website, other than a minimum period of two weeks prior to the sale.

No motions were made regarding these issues and the Committee proceeded to consider Mr. Mattiucci's proposals.

- Section 8.01

Mr. Mattiucci urged consideration of Mr. Jackvony's and the Mayor's proposals to strike "a qualified elector of the City of Cranston". Since State Law 45-2-52 was passed deleting this, his proposal is moot.

Chair asked that this proposal be held until the next meeting so he can review this Statute since he has not reviewed it yet. No one objected.

- Section 10.04

Mr. Mattiucci withdrew his proposal to this section.

- Section 13.01

Mr. Mattiucci proposed changing line 9 "not inconsistent" to "consistent" for clarity. Chair stated that there is a legal difference between the two.

Mr. Mattiucci withdrew his proposal to this section.

- Section 13.01

Mr. Mattiucci proposed changing line 12 "all its members" to "all members present".

After discussion regarding this proposed change, Mr. Mattiucci withdrew his proposal.

Mr. Jackvony's proposals:

- Section 2.04

Mr. Jackvony stated that this proposal would change the makeup of the School Committee from 7 members to 10 members, a member from each Ward, two appointed by the Mayor and two appointed by the Council President and keeping the election the same as the City Council, every two years starting with the 2012 election.

Chair questioned why an even number Committee and not an odd number. Mr. Jackvony stated that he was just trying to keep more of a balance between the two.

Mr. Mattiucci stated that this proposal would be making the School Committee much more political body then it is now. He questioned why we would want to change something that is working.

Mr. Jackvony stated that this proposal is not based on performance of this School Committee or past Committees. It is based on his past experience in seeing the communications between the City and School Department while he served on the School Buildings Committee and the City Council. The makeup as it is now could be political. His proposal is to try to bring both sides, Schools and City, together.

Mr. Notarianni indicated that the School Committee members attend City Council meetings, but City Council members do not attend School Committee meetings. Mr. Carrera stated that this Committee has been meeting for almost a year and only one School Committee member has attended our meetings, while there have been five Council members who have come before this Committee.

Mr. Parente stated that whatever the composition is, we have to require the School Committee and the City Council to communicate on a regular basis, especially during negotiations and also stressed that no contract should be signed without the approval of the Mayor and the City Council.

Mr. Notarianni stated that the purpose of the School Committee is to be at odds with the City Council, it is a checks and balance. Their purpose is to work for the kids.

Chair stated that he would have liked to have seen the School Committee appear before this Committee to address the portion of the Charter regarding the School Committee to indicate if they had any problems or recommendations regarding any changes. He recommended possibly changing the School Committee composition to nine members appointed by the electors and one appointed by the Mayor and one appointed by the Council President.

Mr. DeGenova stated that he is in favor of no appointments of School Committee members. They should be all elected members. Elected officials are held accountable. To have the Council appoint a School Committee member takes control away from the citizens.

Ms. Scripsack agreed that the School Committee should be elected and not appointed. She also indicated that years ago, the Mayor's Office had a liaison to the School Committee. They do not anymore. She does not know why.

Chair asked for motion to amend Mr. Jackvony's proposal to Section 2.04 changing the composition to nine members, one appointed by the Mayor and one appointed by the Council President.

On motion by Mr. Jackvony, seconded by Mr. Carrera it was voted to approve this amendment. Motion passed on a vote of 6-5. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Mr. Donahue, Mr. Jackvony, Chairman Mulcahy, Mr. Parente, Mr. Carrera and Mr. Canaan -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Mr. Mattiucci, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Notarianni, Ms. Scripsack and Mr. DeGenova -5.

Mr. DeGenova asked that for clarity purpose, language be drafted regarding this change and it be discussed at the next meeting. He would like to know what all the ramifications are.

Mr. Jackvony stated that he will draft this language and forward it to the Clerk to be provided to the members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees