

# Minneapolis Charter Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, March 2, 2005 - 4:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Thaden, Lazarus, Bujold, Dolan, Dziedzic, Klassen, Lichty, Melendez, Metge, Ponsford, Ferrara, Theurer

Absent: Commissioners Bernstein (excused), Collier (excused), Clegg

Also Present: Deputy City Attorney Peter Ginder

In the absence of Chair Bernstein, Vice Chair Thaden called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in Room 317, City Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## 1. Roll Call

Commissioner Bujold requested that the Commission's best wishes for a quick recovery be conveyed to Commissioner Collier.

## 2. Adopt Agenda

By unanimous consent, the agenda was amended to allow for consideration of Item 6 first.

*Lazarus moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded.*

The motion was adopted upon a voice vote.

## 6. 2005 Calendar for Placing a Proposed Charter Amendment on the November 8, 2005 Ballot and 2005 Voter Information and Election Calendar

Suzanne Griffin, Assistant City Clerk and Director of Elections, presented her written report and accompanying calendars. She added that there is much information posted on the City's Web site (Clerk – Elections) and encouraged people to review the site.

## 3. Minutes of February 2, 2005

Commissioner Ponsford noted that her absence from the February 2 meeting should be recorded as "excused".

*Motion to approve the Minutes, as corrected. Seconded.*

The motion was adopted upon a voice vote.

## 4. Minneapolis City Charter (re Reform):

a) Request from City Council Intergovernmental Relations Committee to the Minneapolis Charter Commission to conduct public hearings to collect ideas for Minneapolis Charter reform, beyond the scope of current "non-substantive" revisions.

*Staff report: [Charter Commission Public Hearings](#)*

*Action Taken on February 2, 2005: Approved establishment of a working group composed of four Charter Commission members (Bernstein, Ferrara, Bujold, Clegg) to organize and schedule meetings (to report back to the Commission no later than April)*

On the issue of pending State legislation regarding Charter Reform, Commissioner Lazarus asked for an update.

Chair Thaden explained that a bill (as distributed to the Commissioners by the City Attorney) has been introduced to the Legislature but has not yet been acted upon.

The Commission requested that Assistant City Burt Osborne provide an update on the legislation.

Commissioner Ferrara noted that the effort to organize and schedule public meetings (as assigned to a working group of four Charter Commissioners) includes the task of deciding on substantive topics that would be the subject of those public meetings. The minutes of the last meeting don't fully reflect that additional charge to the working group and he wished to provide that clarification.

b) Minneapolis City Charter (re Redistricting):

*Subject matter* of ordinances amending the Minneapolis City Charter relating to redistricting, amending: a) Chapter 1, Section 3 relating to City and Ward Boundaries: Thirteen Wards; b) Chapter 2, Section 4 relating to Officers--Elections: Election (By Ostrow - Referred to IGR from the City Council 11/21/03)

*Intergovernmental Relations Committee Action of 1/11/05: Refer back to Minneapolis Charter Commission for further discussion in the broader scope of City Charter reform.*

*Staff report: [Charter amend Chap 1 Sec3 and Redistricting timelines](#)*

*Action Taken on February 2, 2005: Matter to be included in consideration of Charter Reform issue*

5. 6th Draft to City Charter Revisions:

Update on meetings with elected officials; public hearing schedule

*Staff report: [Charter Revision 6th draft](#); [Charter Revision 6th draft-relined](#); [Moir letter](#) [Library Board of Trustees Letter](#); [Park Board comments](#); [City Attorneys comments](#); [Summary of Charter Changes](#); [Charter revision timelines](#)*

*Action Taken by the Commission on 1/5/05: The reporter will report back to the Charter Commission by June 30, 2005 with the best and final draft; Commissioner Dziedzic will consult with Steve Ristuben on whether or not the discount for publishing Charter amendments could be extended past the deadline of December 31, 2005; Public hearings postponed until after the final draft is presented*

### **Input from Citizen**

Bruce Lundeen, Whittier Neighborhood resident, addressed the Commission. He noted his review of the bill before the Legislature, referred to as the "Bill for Governance". He recognizes that there is concern that there have been some bad decisions made by elected officials. Although he thinks some people believe that governance cannot be reformed without a vote of the City Council, he has confirmed that the State can truly change the city it created without City approval. Mr. Lundeen reported that he would like to see Minneapolis elected officials remain involved in government. He fears that the reform being sought would mean more administrative and Mayoral control and he doesn't support it.

Commissioner Bujold thanked Mr. Lundeen for his comments, noting that the Commission remains open to hearing all public input.

Commissioner Lazarus asked Mr. Lundeen, if given a choice as a voter to place some of the controls that are in the City Charter into the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances where they were intended to be to begin with, would he support such a change?

Mr. Lundeen replied that he is not sufficiently familiar with the subject to make a choice.

*Lazarus moved to adjourn. Seconded.*  
The motion was adopted upon a voice vote.

Julie Bartell  
Charter Commission Clerk