

DRAFT
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Mayfield Village Civic Hall - Mayfield Village Civic Center

Present: Paul Fikaris, Mark Granakis, Larry Harrison
Alexandra Jeanblanc, Dona Kless, Lorry Nadeau,
Diane Stricker, Jim Thomas

Also Present: Mayor Bodnar, Diane Wolgamuth,
Anthony Coyne, Patsy Mills, Denny Murphy,
Jennifer Jurcisek, Al Meyers, Stephen Schutt,
Mary Betsa

. **Welcome and Introduction**
- **Comments by Mayor Bodnar**

Mayor Bodnar stated, welcome to the kick-off meeting. We enjoy living in a very wonderful community. One of the fundamental reasons our community is so strong is we have people like you willing to participate for the benefit of the community. Thank you. I look around the table and see a lot of talent and skills and diversity and experience. You have a lot to accomplish in a short period of time. I thank you very much for taking on the commitment.

. **Administration of Oaths of Office**

Mayor Bodnar administered the oath of office to Paul Fikaris and Diane Stricker who were unable to attend the Council meeting.

. **Explanation of Duties**
o **Comments by Law Director Anthony Coyne**

Mr. Coyne introduced himself to the Commission and provided some background. Mr. Coyne stated, I appreciate people like yourselves who are engaged in spending your personal time to be here. That's important.

Mr. Coyne provided some background on the Charter, how it is established, how it is created and why. Charters are like Constitutions. Municipalities have them if they choose to. Some do not. Those without Charters operate under the statute of the State of Ohio. Article XVII, Section 3 of the Constitution, provides the power of local self-government for municipalities, which are political subdivisions of the State of Ohio. Section 7 of that Article provides for municipalities to adopt and amend a Charter. Section 3 states that municipalities can adopt and enforce within the limits of such local, police, sanitary and other similar regulations, laws not in conflict with the general laws of the State of Ohio.

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Everything the Village does has to be consistent with Charter which creates the ability for the Village to operate. Has everyone received copies of the Charter?

The Commission received copies of the Charter.

Mr. Coyne continued, the Charter and the Commission work hand in hand. You are working with a Constitution already created. You are reviewing whether there should be amendments to the Charter. You can make any changes and then send your recommendations to Council.

Mr. Coyne stated, Mayfield Village operates under a Mayor-Council form of government. Mr. Coyne went through the Charter and explained some of the sections. These are very important items of self-government that you should take the time to go through and have a discussion to see if there's anything that should be recommended to be changed. It's important that you get your hands around the duties of the different Boards and Commissions identified in the Charter.

Mr. Coyne stated, a Chairperson should be appointed. You will need good writers to take down the notes and recommendations for discussion purposes. I will be the final scrivener to write the recommendation to Council. You should have received a report from Dr. Keller outlining a couple of criteria when you review the Charter. Mr. Coyne read some excerpts of the report.

Mr. Coyne stated, Mayfield Village's public officials are elected because the people who know them have confidence in you to guide the Village. For example, Mayor Bodnar is elected as Mayor. She works with department heads, meets with them weekly, sees what they are doing. Make sure they are doing their job. She has an Administrator who helps because oftentimes elected officials are not full-time jobs. It's a lot of responsibility which the Village takes very seriously.

Mr. Coyne stated, also you can have discussion with anyone you want to on the preparation of any Charter changes. If you need to get any legal opinions, talk to me about it. Get familiar with the Charter to be able to produce a document that is going to be inherent to all the citizens in the community. You don't want to get too elaborate. We already have a Charter that works really well. Be conscious of that.

Deadlines

Mr. Coyne went through his Memorandum outlining Charter Review Deadlines. The Commission only has 5 months to deliberate and make a recommendation of any proposed changes.

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| May 15 | - | Final Amendments to Law Department for drafting |
| June 1 | - | Amendments to Council at Caucus meeting |
| June 15 | - | First Read of Amendments before Council |
| July 20 | - | Second Read of Amendments before Council |
| August 17 | - | Public Hearing-Third Read-Passage of Amendments by Council |

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September 4 - Amendments must be filed with Board of Elections
November 3 - Election Day

Mr. Coyne stated, the Commission could meet weekly, bi-weekly, it's up to them? Are there any questions?

Mr. Granakis asked, if we send a recommendation to Council and they turn it down, does it die?

Mr. Coyne stated, unless there's a legal reason not to put it on, whatever recommendation you make will go to the voters to be adopted or not.

Discussion ensued about the Charter needing to be gender-neutral. Changes can be proposed by the Commission.

Mr. Meyers asked, so basically, the voters are the ones changing the Charter?

Mr. Coyne replied, the voters will decide whether to accept the recommendations of the Charter Commission.

Mr. Harrison asked, before you go to vote, how are the residents going to be notified as to the changes?

Mayor Bodnar stated, we put it in the *Voice of the Village*. We also hold a Public Hearing outlining the issues and inviting them to come.

Ms. Wolgamuth added, in the past, the Law Director has sent a letter to the residents with the Charter language.

Mr. Coyne encouraged members of the Commission and Council to talk to their constituents and if they have questions, you will be in the best position to answer the questions. Also, these meetings are open to the public. I will attend your meetings unless you think I don't need to attend.

. Introduction of Commission members

The Commission members went around the table and introduced themselves, providing their background and experience.

. **Election of Chairperson**

Mr. Fikaris volunteered to serve as Chairperson.

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- . **Diane Stricker, seconded by Jim Thomas nominated Paul Fikaris to serve as Chairperson for the 2020 Charter Review Commission.**

ROLL CALL: Ayes: All
Nays: None

Motion Carried
Paul Fikaris Elected
Chairman of the
2020 Charter Review Commission

- . **Election of Chairperson Pro Tem**

Chairman Fikaris asked for nominations for Chairman Pro Tem. They serve in the absence of the Chair.

Mrs. Nadeau volunteered to serve as Chairperson Pro Tem for 2020 Charter Review Commission.

- . **Chairman Fikaris, seconded by Diane Stricker nominated Lorry Nadeau to serve as Chairperson for the 2020 Charter Review Commission.**

ROLL CALL: Ayes: All
Nays: None

Motion Carried
Lorry Nadeau Elected
Chairman Pro Tem of the
2020 Charter Review Commission

- . **Scheduling of Future Meetings**

Chairman Fikaris stated, in the past we have met every other week. We take the Charter in sections. We reviewed the first three articles prior to our first meeting and we came with questions or comments. It is highly unlikely we will make no recommendations. We have received recommendations from outside this body in the past. Chairman Fikaris touched upon some of the past recommendations and some of the procedures followed.

Chairman Fikaris suggested the next meeting be scheduled and then a calendar established.

The next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room at Mayfield Civic Hall.

Chairman Fikaris asked the Commission to review Articles I, II and III.

- . **Any Other Matters**

Chairman Fikaris asked, are there any other matters?

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Mrs. Betsa stated, yes, Mr. Chairman, in the past the Commission has sent a memo to the Mayor, Council, Department Heads, Commission and Boards right after the initial kick-off meeting. If the Commission so desires, I can send it out again. Normally, I send it out and receive responses immediately from everyone that says either they don't have any suggestions, or they would like to attend a meeting and be on the schedule.

Chairman Fikaris stated, the sooner the better.

Adjournment

Chairman Fikaris stated, if there is no further business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Stricker, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Betsa, MMC

Secretary - Charter Review Commission