

Minutes of the 17th Charter Revision Commission Government Committee Meeting
Monday, February 20, 2012

Present: Vincent J. Freccia; Josh Fedeli; Susan Nabel; Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Rich Roseman
Rosanne McManus of the Charter Revision Commission attended.

Visitors: Frank Vartuli

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Freccia.

The Committee reviewed various charges that had been discussed in previous meetings, not necessarily in the order listed on the agenda.

Agenda item 5: Charges 32 through 35:

Charge 32: Committee consensus was to recommend term limits for all other elected Boards but the Committee wishes to have a general discussion with the other members of the Commission as to what the parameters (number of terms/years, possible phase in) would be.

Charge 33: Committee was unanimous in recommending the office of Mayor be limited to two elected terms.

Charge 34: Committee agreed to disagree on reducing the size of the Board of Reps.; Committee consensus was to voice to the full Commission its reluctance to bring the issue forward as a revision to the Charter.

Charge 35: Committee consensus was not to recommend staggering the terms of the Board of Representatives.

Agenda item 4:

Charge 15: Committee consensus is that the Director of Public Safety Health and Welfare remain a Cabinet level position and that the Charter should not include qualifications for that post.

Charge 59a: the correct Charter reference is C2-10-2 section 12. The Committee agreed to leave the current charter language intact regarding the BOR powers to conduct investigation. When in discussion with the full Commission on 3/7, the Committee will ask Chair Sandak to provide further detail on an "independent investigative authority." The Committee needs clarification on whether the authority would lie within the BOR or whether the BOR would have the authority to set up a separate commission. Chair Freccia noted that the agreement threshold on the BOR is set high by the Charter. He also questioned who would pay for the independent authority.

Regarding C6-20-9, Committee agreed to hold its suggestion on language changes on the assumption that the Finance Committee will clarify the charter

language that the BOF has investigatory powers restricted to financial issues/matters.

Charges 88 and 91: Chair Freccia will ask Mayor Pavia for further specifics.

Charge 90: Ms. McManus will provide information at the next meeting

Charge 117: Committee saw no need to change the current Charter language. Committee will look to BOR for further clarification.

Charge 117a: Committee is agreed that if there is a determination of a violation of ethical rules and a charge is levied, this would give rise to impeachment proceedings. Committee agreed to ask its counsel for a more precise definition of impeachment. Committee agreed to work in concert with the PSH Ethics Committee to construct Charter language that would tie a code of ethics violation to an impeachment process, to be defined and spelled out in the Charter. Dudley Williams and Chair Freccia will work together to formulate a list of questions for a guest from the Connecticut Conference on Municipalities to speak on at a meeting in the near future.

Agenda item 3: Josh Fedeli agreed to draft a proposal for a Citizens Bill of Rights that utilizes Mr. Vartuli's draft in a matrix with the Bills from St. Louis, No. Miami and San Antonio. This draft proposal will be brought to the full commission on March 7 for discussion.

The minutes of the 2/13 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Rich Roseman, second Dudley Williams.

The next meeting of the Government committee was scheduled for February 27 at 6:00 p.m. Chair Freccia will participate by phone, and Dudley Williams will be excused from that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. on a motion by Rich Roseman, seconded by Josh Fedeli.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nabel

This meeting is on [video](#).