

Minutes of the 17th Charter Revision Commission Government Committee Meeting
Monday, February 27, 2012

Present: Vincent J. Freccia by phone; Josh Fedeli; Susan Nabel; Rich Roseman
Dudley Williams was excused.
Visitors: Frank Vartuli

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chairman Freccia.

The Committee discussed Agenda items, not necessarily in order.

Under Agenda item 4, the Committee discussed the proposal to include a Citizens' Bill of Rights in the Charter.

Josh Fedeli drafted a Citizens' Bill of Rights that combined Mr. Vartuli's original proposal in a matrix with similar bills from St. Louis, No. Miami, and San Antonio. He submitted this draft to the committee members for discussion, which concerned focusing the document on the most necessary/basic concepts the Committee wants to put forward to citizens as "guaranteed," and on how to enforce the essential concepts/rights cited in the bill.

Mr. Freccia requested that the Committee receive a list of all BOR committees in order to begin to formulate a process to name and investigate citizen questions/complaints/disputes resulting from perceived violations of the proposed Citizens' Bill of Rights.

The discussion centered on the idea of a Citizens' Advocate/Liaison/Mediator or a so-called Citizens' Advocate Board as an office designated in the Charter to be the remedy for citizen/city disputes. There was discussion on whether this office should be appointed, paid or volunteer and informal consensus was that the office should be volunteer. The Chair of a proposed Citizens' Advocate Board would have the ability to assign a member of that Board to appoint a Board member to act as a mediator in citizen/city conflicts.

The Committee agreed to ask Josh Fedeli to narrow the scope of the proposed Citizens' Bill of Rights and agreed that it will continue its discussion on ways to construct Board "enforcement" of the Citizens' Bill of Rights. The Committee agreed to strike items III, VI, IX and X from Josh Fedeli's original draft. The Committee hopes to have the draft ready to place on the agenda of the 3/7 or 3/14 full Commission agenda.

Other items under Agenda item 4:

Charge 117: no further information has been received (Transportation).

Charge 90: pending Ms. McManus' presence, the item is tabled.

Charge 12h: (C3-10-14): the Committee tabled discussion until all members were present, citing concerns that the Charter reference may be inappropriate for the Charter and more fitting for the Code of Ordinances. Chair Freccia will solicit information from prior Charter Commission members.

It was agreed that Susan Nabel would prepare a chart of the Government Committees current position on all of its charges to be available for the Committee's 3/05 meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the 2/13 meeting was tabled until all members had the opportunity to review the draft of the minutes.

The next meeting of the Government committee was scheduled for March 5 at 6:00 p.m. Chair Freccia will participate by phone.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. on a motion by Rich Roseman, seconded by Josh Fedeli, accepted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nabel