

**MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION
2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

To: The Honorable Lucy Wieland, Chief Judge
Hennepin County District Court

From: Jim Bernstein, Chair
Minneapolis Charter Commission

1. MEMBERSHIP

In January, 2007, there were 15 members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission. During 2007, the following changes took place in the membership:

- Barry Clegg was reappointed for a term to expire May 1, 2011
- Thomas Jancik was appointed for a term to expire February 26, 2011
- Ian Stade was reappointed for a term to expire May 1, 2011

The year ended with a membership of 15 Commissioners.

Appendix I, attached, shows the roster as of December 31, 2007, with relevant data regarding appointments, terms, and expiration dates.

2. OFFICERS

Officers were elected on February 7, 2007, as follows:

- Jim Bernstein, Chair
- Barry Lazarus, Vice Chair
- Barry Clegg, Secretary

3. STAFF

Assistance was provided by the following City staff:

- Lisa Needham Assistant City Attorney
- Cindy Reichert Director of Elections
- Peggy Menshek Council Committee Coordinator

4. MEETINGS

The Charter Commission held nine regular meetings in 2007. (The January 3, October 3, and December 5, 2007, meetings were cancelled.)

Charter Commissioners Clegg, Lazarus, Ferrara, Stade, and Connell met with former Commissioner Brian Melendez for a Work Session on February 14, 2007 at Mr. Melendez' office at Faegre & Benson, to discuss the City Attorney's analysis of Draft 9 of the proposed revised Charter.

Charter Commissioners Bernstein and Street attended a meeting at Secretary of State Ritchie's Office on June 27, 2007, regarding the implementation of Instant Run-Off Voting (IRV). Commissioner Street and Cindy Reichert, Minneapolis Director of Elections, are serving on a Task Force designed to be advisory to the City of Minneapolis and the Secretary of State's Office regarding adoption of statewide standards for conduct of IRV elections and other factors related to implementation of IRV in Minnesota.

5. ATTENDANCE

Appendix II, attached, shows the attendance record of Commissioners during 2007.

6. RULES

There were no revisions to the Charter Commission's Rules during 2007.

7. ISSUES CONSIDERED

- The City Attorney's Analysis of Draft 9 of the proposed revised Charter (February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5, November 11, 2007)
- The proposed merger of the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Library Systems (March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, 2007)
- The proposed elimination of the Board of Estimate and Taxation (April 4, May 2, June 6, 2007)
- Correspondence received from Mr. Juris Curiskis regarding an appeal filed in district court objecting to a special assessment (May 2, 2007)
- The current Charter process in the filling of a vacancy in the office of City Council Members and Mayor (August 1, 2007)
- Adopted the 10th Draft of the revised Charter for referral to City Attorney's Office for review (November 7, 2007)

8. RESEARCH ISSUES

No research information was requested by the Charter Commissioners.

9. SPEAKERS

The following people addressed the Charter Commission in 2007:

- Former Commissioner Brian Melendez, regarding the proposed revised Charter (May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5, November 7, 2007)
- Cheryl Luger, 4936 37th Avenue South, regarding the proposed merger of the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Library Systems (March 7, 2007)
- Peter Wagenius, Senior Policy Aide to Mayor Rybak, regarding the proposed merger of the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Library Systems and the proposed elimination of the Board of Estimate and Taxation (April 4, May 2, June 6, 2007)
- Council Member Diane Hofstede, Ward Three, regarding the proposed merger of the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Library Systems (April 4, 2007)
- Barret Lane, outside counsel to the City Attorney's Office, regarding the proposed revised Charter (September 5, 2007)
- Carol Becker, elected member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, regarding the continuation of a six-member Board in the event of the proposed merger of the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Library Systems (September 5, 2007)

10. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY PETITION

There were no Charter amendments by petition in 2007.

11. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY ORDINANCE

There were no Charter amendments by ordinance in 2007.

12. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY REFERENDUM

There were no Charter amendments by referendum in 2007.

Appendix I
2007 MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION ROSTER

Commissioner	Phone	Appointed Date Appointed By	Term	Expiration Date
Bernstein, James		05/17/1999 - Judge Mabley 06/27/2000 - Judge Mabley 07/22/2004 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of David Fisher First term Serving second term	July 1, 2000 July 1, 2004 July 1, 2008
Bujold, Tyrone		07/16/2004 - Judge Burke	Serving first term	July 1, 2008
Clegg, Barry		05/2003 - Judge Burke 4/20/2007 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term Serving second term	May 1, 2007 May 1, 2011
Connell, Corbin		03/26/06 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010
Dolan, Margaret		10/20/1998 - Judge Mabley 04/29/2002 - Judge Burke 05/22/2006 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of Francis Connolly Serving first term Serving second term	March 26, 2002 March 26, 2006 March 26, 2010
Ferrara, Todd		03/19/2004 - Judge Burke 07/21/2004 - Judge Burke	Filled unexpired term of Pete Rhodes Serving first term	July 1, 2004 July 1, 2008
Jancik, Thomas		02/28/2007 - Judge Wieland	Filling unexpired term of Susan Ponsford Serving first term	Feb. 26, 2011
Klassen, John		09/10/2004 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	July 1, 2008
Lazarus, Barry		05/2003 - Judge Burke 07/30/2004 - Judge Burke	Filled unexpired term of Steven Pihlaja Serving first term	June 1, 2004 June 1, 2008
Lichty, Marshall		09/10/2004 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	July 1, 2008
Metge, Jana		05/2003 - Judge Burke 05/22/2006 - Judge Wieland	Filled unexpired term of Steven Johnson Serving first term	March 26, 2006 March 26, 2010
Remme, Kristy		03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010
Rubenstein, Andrea		03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010
Stade, Ian		06/07/2006 - Judge Wieland 04/30/2007 - Judge Wieland	Serving unexpired term of Karen Collier Serving first term	May 1, 2007 May 1, 2011
Street, Aaron		03/26/2006 - Judge Wieland	Serving first term	May 10, 2010

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Appendix II
MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION
2007 ATTENDANCE RECORD

(Code: Blank = Present; A = Absent; E = Excused)

Name	01/03	02/07	03/07	04/04	05/02	06/06	07/11	08/01	09/05	10/03	11/07	12/05
James Bernstein												
Tyrone Bujold		A			E	E	A	A				
Berry Clegg				E							A	
Corbin Connell							E	E				
Margaret Dolan		E						E				
Todd Ferrara									E			
Thomas Jancik									E			
John Klassen		E			E		E					
Barry Lazarus			E									
Marshall Lichty					E							
Jana Metge		A					E		E		E	
Sue Ponsford		E										
Kristi Remme					E			E			E	
Andrea Rubenstein						E			E			
Ian Stade						E	E					
Aaron Street												

The January 3, October 3, and December 5, 2007, meetings were cancelled