

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION
Summary of Proposed Changes to the Minneapolis Charter

1. **City Administrator**

The City Charter establishes the position of City Coordinator. The City Coordinator is appointed by the Executive Committee (the Mayor, President of City Council, and three other members of the City Council) and is responsible for providing leadership and direction in the coordination of the city government within the guidelines established by the Charter, the Mayor, and the City Council. The City Coordinator advises the Mayor and Council regarding policy decisions and oversees representation of the city's interests in various intergovernmental activities. He or she also oversees the city's financial operations and supervises six department heads: Communications, Finance, Human Resources, Business Information Services, Intergovernmental Relations, and Regulatory Services/Emergency Preparedness.

A number of the proposed changes to the City Charter are related to the office of City Coordinator. The first part of the proposal is to eliminate the Coordinator position and to replace it with a City Administrator. In addition, the proposal seeks to change reporting relationships within the City by placing all City departments under the City Administrator, as well. The Charter now provides that the Executive Committee has the exclusive authority to appoint and remove the heads of all the major city departments: Police Chief, Fire Chief, Director of Public Works, Commissioner of Health, City Attorney, City Assessor, City Coordinator, and Civil Service Commission, as well as others who may be appointed by the Mayor or City Council. Under the proposal to change the Charter, the Executive Committee, City Council and Mayor would still be the appointing authority, but only the City Administrator could remove them. Finally, the position of Director of the City Planning Department, also a position established by the City Charter, would be removed from the Charter and instead be placed under City Administrator's power of removal.

2. **Board of Estimate and Taxation**

The Board of Estimate and Taxation is an elected Board established under the City Charter. Among its functions, it is responsible for the internal audit function of the City, participates in the overall debt management policy of the City, issues general obligation bonds to support capital projects, and holds public hearings to obtain citizen input related to setting maximum tax levies for various tax funds of the City, including the General Fund, the Park and Recreation fund, the Public Housing Fund, and others.

The proposed change to the City Charter with respect to the Board of Estimate and Taxation is to eliminate the Board and transfer its functions to the City Council.

3. **The Park and Recreation Board**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is responsible for the program, operation, maintenance and security of all of the parks and park lands in the City of Minneapolis. Its mission is permanently to “preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.”

The proposed change is to eliminate the Park and Recreation Board from the Charter, transfer security functions to the Police Department, and transfer maintenance functions to the Department of Public Works.

MEEING DATES:

Thursday, April 23, 2009, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Minnesota Transitions School, Board Room
2872 26th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

North Regional Library
1315 Lowry Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Thursday, April 30, 2009, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Northeast Library
2200 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Thursday, May 7, 2009, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Joan of Arc Church (lower level)
4500 Clinton Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419

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