

Minneapolis Charter Commission Minutes

September 7, 2011 - 4:00 p.m.
Room 317 City Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commissioners Present: Clegg (Chair), Connell, Dolan, Ferrara, Johnson, Kozak, Lazarus, Lickness, Metge, Peltola, Rubenstein, Sandberg, Schwarzkopf

Commissioner Excused: Gerdes

Commissioner Absent: Cohen

Also Present: Carol Bachun, Assistant City Attorney

1. Roll Call

Chair Clegg called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Roll call was taken.

2. Adopt Agenda

Dolan moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Gerdes.

3. Approve minutes of regular meeting of August 3, 2011

Dolan moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 3, 2011. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Gerdes.

4. Chair's Report

Clegg reported that a Redistricting Group Orientation Session had been scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, at 4 pm in Room 319 City Hall. He had circulated a tentative agenda, and if anyone had any suggestions or additions, they should contact him.

Hennepin County will be using Maptitude software for redistricting and will make a copy available to the Minneapolis Redistricting Group.

Discussion

5. Legislative Redistricting Lawsuit: Update by City Attorney's Office.

Carol Bachun, Assistant City Attorney, distributed a document entitled, "Minnesota State Redistricting Litigation Summary" which presented an overview of the litigation taking place with respect to state redistricting and included timelines for the State and Federal cases, as well as a summary of key redistricting dates. The State's Special Redistricting Panel will hold a series of public hearings between October 6 and October 14, 2011, to give the public the opportunity to provide the panel with facts, opinions, or concerns that may inform the redistricting process. Neither the federal nor the state panel will affirmatively take action to set legislative lines unless the Legislature fails to do so by the deadline. The deadline for the City to establish ward boundaries is April 3, 2012, or 60 days after completion of legislative districts.

Clegg noted that ward and precinct lines are not required to coincide with legislative district lines, so the Redistricting Group can begin work on redistricting prior to the state completing their redistricting process but may not adopt a final plan until after state redistricting is complete.

**6. Plain Language Charter Revision Working Group:
Committee report.**

Clegg reported that former Commissioner Brian Melendez was working on incorporating the City Attorney's suggestions into a formal draft of the Plain Language Charter Revision which he expected to bring to the October meeting for the Commission's consideration.

**7. Communication Committee:
Committee report.**

A written summary of the August 31 Communications Committee meeting had been distributed. The Committee requested that the City Clerk report at the October meeting on the status of updating the redistricting website. The Committee also discussed whether the redistricting website would be interactive allowing the public to submit plans through the website.

Casey Carl, City Clerk, stated that the website for redistricting is maintained by the Clerk's Office; however, the Clerk's Office has no ownership of its content. The 2002 redistricting website has been, and will continue to be, maintained as a historical record. He has discussed the creation of a new redistricting website with the BIS Department, and it is ready to go once there is content to place on the page. He deferred to the Charter Commission as the experts to provide the content for the website.

Clegg stated that the public would not have access to the Redistricting Group's software. He suggested that the Commission or the Redistricting Group discuss in greater depth how much interaction should be available through the redistricting website.

**8. Operations Committee:
Committee report.**

Clegg reported that the Operations Committee met on August 11 and chose to use the Maptitude software which the County and State are also using. The Committee also approved a job posting for a GIS consultant. He suggested that Commissioners publicize the job opening. No applications have been received yet.

Public Commentary

There was no one present wishing to address the Charter Commission. Members of the Student Senate of the Minneapolis Community and Technical College were present observing the meeting and introduced themselves to the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Peggy Menshek
Council Committee Coordinator