

Meeting Minutes for the Charter Review Commission  
June 26, 2014 Public Hearing 5:00 p.m.  
Columbus City Hall, Council Chambers

Attendance:

- Marchelle E. Moore, Esq., co-chair
- Representative Michael F. Curtin, co-chair
- Dawn Tyler Lee, commissioner
- Jeff Cabot, commissioner
- City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian, commissioner
- City Clerk Andrea Blevins
- Josh Cox, chief counsel, city attorney's office
- Bryan Clark, Columbus City Council liaison to the Commission
- Christie Angel, serving as Mayor's Office Liaison to the Commission for this meeting

Ms. Moore welcomed fellow Commissioners, staff, and the public to the second public hearing of the Charter Review Commission.

Ms. Moore reviewed the Bylaws previously approved by the Commission referencing specifically that a person wishing to offer public comment must submit a speaker slip on the day of the hearing no later than the time established in the public notice for said meeting. Ms. Moore clarified that the time established for accepting speaker slips for this public hearing is 5:30 p.m., and that time will be honored. The slip must provide the person's name, address, organization represented, and the subject to be addressed. Public comments must adhere to the requirements of the Columbus City Code 111.12 paragraph 4, which provides that speakers' subject matter would not contain obscenity, defamation, or slander, nor shall speakers conduct themselves in violation of the disorderly conduct or disturbing lawful meetings of the Columbus City Code. Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes unless waived by the co-chair presiding over the meeting. Ms. Moore called speaker Karla Rothan to address the Commission.

Ms. Rothan, executive director of Stonewall Columbus, stated her support for the equal rights amendment to be placed in the Charter. Ms. Rothan commented that Columbus prides itself on being an open city and welcoming to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community and that the Charter should reflect that by being modern, fitting the time and spirit of the city.

Ms. Moore thanked Ms. Rothan for her work and support of proposed changes in the Charter. Auditor Dorrian commented that the equal rights amendment had already been one of the unanimously supported recommendations.

The public hearing was recessed until such time that additional speaker slips are received.

Ms. Moore reconvened the public hearing and called second speaker, Mr. Jonathan C. Beard to address the Commission.

Mr. Beard, representing the Columbus Coalition for Responsive Government, recommended the Commission's consideration and support of an amendment to the Charter that would change the governance of the city to include district representation with additional at-large members of Council. Mr. Beard stated that out of the top 50 cities in America, Columbus is the only city that does not have council districts and should follow the other cities trend of good government. Mr. Beard stated this issue that has come up periodically since the 1950's. Mr. Beard stated that the motive since the late 1950's had been to

increase minority representation in Council but that is no longer the case today, but the issue that should be addressed is effective representation regardless of race, creed, or color. Mr. Beard stated strong support of an 11 member Council comprised of seven district members and four at-large members. Mr. Beard stated this was the people's decision and should be recommended for placement on the ballot.

Ms. Moore asked if Mr. Beard's comments are available on the Commission's website. Mr. Clark responded that no public comments have been placed on the website.

Mr. Curtin asked Mr. Beard if the city went from the current at-large composition to the proposed composition, what their organization would see as the effective differences and what would the expectation be for delivery of services and representation. Mr. Beard responded it would be effective on both the large and small scales. Mr. Beard added the composition would allow more seats and candidates to compete, which improves the quality of representation and keeps elections fair and competitive. Mr. Beard referenced past levies that have failed at the ballot, which show that elected officials are disconnected to the interests, goals, and desires of the community and show a lack of representation and supportive policy.

Ms. Moore thanked Mr. Beard for offering his comments.

Ms. Moore called a recess until such time that additional speaker slips were received.

Ms. Moore reconvened the public meeting at 5:30 and noted that no additional speaker slips had been received.

Mr. Cabot stated that he had further discussion with staff during the recess regarding the temporary inability of office provision and requested that staff provide additional information for the Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Auditor Dorrian made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tyler Lee, to adjourn the meeting.

- Yeas – 5
- Nays – 0
- Motion carried