

**Charter Review Committee
Minutes**

September 22, 2016, 5:30 p.m.
Fedderson Recreation Center
3911 Dresden Street, Columbus, Ohio
(audio tape available in the City Clerk's office)

Committee Members in Attendance:

Stefanie L. Coe, Chair
Lourdes Barroso de Padilla
Jennette B. Bradley
Frieda L. Gilyard
Rev. Tyrone A. Lawes
Frederick E. Mills
Keary McCarthy
John C. Rosenberger
Robert Vitale

Committee Chair Stefanie Coe opened the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chair Coe thanked Mayor Ginther, Council President Klein, Council Member Hardin and other members of City Council for giving this opportunity to learn and hear community input on suggestions for improvement and process, etc. Coe also thanked the Recreation Center Director, Tommy Brown and his staff for allowing use of the facility for the meeting.

Introduction of Committee Members

Adoption of By-Laws

By-laws were emailed in advance to committee members for review. Coe asked for comments, questions or concerns. McCarthy commented on section 1.5.1. The requirements for providing public testimony to the committee indicates that individuals must submit their name, address, organization no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the regular meeting and asked for an amendment so that we don't present any challenges for people to come after work and still have the opportunity to sign in and provide public input. Chair Coe stated that it was her intention to take comments submitted in advance first that are relevant to our scope of focus for that meeting and then if people arrive at the meeting and wish to speak, we will have a process for them to speak that night. She indicated her preference was to leave that section of the by-laws as written, if the committee members agree.

Mr. Vitale asked that we add that part to clarify that anyone can speak. Mr. Mills questioned the last sentence of rule 1.1.2 regarding the presiding member conducting an orderly meeting, but not being required to follow Robert's Rules of Order. He commented that he understood that we may not need a strict set of rules, but felt like there should be something the committee is guided by. Coe responded that we would like to structure the committee in a less formal way so that we have a little flexibility to do what is most effective, but she did expect that we will follow rules and have positive, respectful conversation. Bradley questioned that members can still make a motion and it will be followed by a second, etc. Coe confirmed that the committee will have a motion followed by a second

and that the committee will make recommendations at the end of the process that will require five of the nine members' affirmative vote to forward a specific recommendation. Coe also stated that everything the committee does will be public. There will be no executive sessions, nothing done outside of what is public and everything is subject to public records requests. Bradley requested to clarify the fact that it currently states the public shall submit comments no later than 12:00 p.m., but then states the person shall provide 14 copies at the time of the meeting. Coe clarified that they can submit their materials ahead of time via e-mail. However, if they don't attach them at that time, they can bring copies to the meeting for distribution. All comments addressed to the committee will be included in the final materials/record of the committee's work.

Chair Coe recognized Committee Member Vitale. Vitale suggested that Section 1.5.1 be amended to say "an interested person who requests to offer public comment at a regular meeting, should submit the address, name, organization represented and the subject to the address no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the regular meeting. Individual should either submit an electronic copy to the charter@columbus.gov email address or provide 14 written photocopies at the time of the meeting." He also suggested that the committee add a sentence that reads "people may also offer public comments by submitting the person's name, address, and organization represented", but note that priority is given to those who register in advance. Chair Coe suggested that addition of "as time permits" after "at the meeting". Bradley suggested that the starting time of the meeting be identified as the cut off time for slips to be submitted. Vitale was concerned that may restrict people from speaking on a subject matter discussed later during the meeting. Chair Coe suggested that due to traffic concerns, the meeting start time should be moved from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. Rosenberger agreed that 6:00 p.m. start time would be preferable. Chair Coe suggested that speaker slips submitted at the meeting site be required to be submitted no later than 5:30 p.m. Chair Coe entertained a motion to accept the additions to Section 1.5.1 of the proposed by-laws. Rosenberger moved, McCarthy seconded. All voted in favor, Motion carried.

Appointment of Secretary, Announcement of City Staff Liaisons to the committee

Coe suggested that Andrea Blevins, City Clerk serve as secretary to the Committee. Rosenberger moved, McCarthy seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Coe introduced staff members Adam Friedman, Senior Policy Advisor in Mayor Ginther's office. Edward Johnson, Director of Legislative Affairs for Columbus City Council, Stephanie Megas, Legislative Assistant to Council Member Stinziano, Tracy Retchin, Chief Ethics Officer for Mayor Ginther, and Josh Cox, Chief Counsel for City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

Adoption of Committee Meeting Schedule

Chair Coe referred to the draft meeting schedule and stated that there are seven meetings on the schedule, all Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, but pursuant to conversation earlier in this meeting, they will be moved to 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The location for the last two meetings is yet to be determined. All meetings are open to the public and notice will be provided in the City Bulletin. Upcoming meeting dates are October 6th at the Glenwood Recreation Center. October 20th at the Tuttle Recreation Center. November 3rd at the Barack Recreation Center and November 10th at the Barnett Recreation Center, and then December 8th and December 15th, with those locations to be determined. Chair Coe asked for a motion to approve the schedule as read. Bradley moved, Rosenberger seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

Presentation on Municipal Charters

Chair Coe called for a presentation on municipal charters by Josh Cox, Chief Counsel in the City Attorney's office. (presentation on file in Charter Review Committee records) Attorney Cox also discussed the scope of this committee and clarified that it is an ad hoc committee and not a Charter Review Commission and is not charged with a comprehensive review of the charter.

Attorney Cox also addressed open meetings law and public records and gave instruction on compliance as it relates to public notice, minutes, and meetings being open to the public. He also reminded committee members that communication needs to take place at the meetings and read the syllabus of a Supreme Court Case, *White v. King* into the record (on file in Charter Review Committee records) and cautioned members to keep communication with each other to the open meetings.

Chair Coe reiterated that the scope of this committee is limited and it is defined in the bylaws to a very specific and narrow topic, and that there may be issues that arise that may be for future consideration during a Charter Review Commission.

Presentation on the scope of the committee and previous changes to the Columbus City Charter

Coe introduced the second presentation by Edward Johnson, Director of Legislative Affairs to Columbus City Council. Mr. Johnson began with background about the formation of the committee and the intention of the Mayor and City Council to provide the framework for an inclusive, community-driven process to explore how the city's legislative branch can best serve all of the city's residents. (presentation on file in Charter Review Committee records)

Announcement of Public hearing, methods of public comment

Chair Coe gave the committee website address:

WWW.Columbus.gov/council/charter-review/charter-review-committee and stated that information about speaking at meetings will appear on the website and interested persons can e-mail comments with attachments to the charter@Columbus.gov e-mail address. Coe also stated committee will limit public comments to five minutes per person. No speaker slips were submitted in advance for this meeting.

The next charter review committee meeting will be Thursday October 6th at 6:00 p.m. at Glenwood Recreation Center. The topic for that meeting is City Council's structure including various forms of representation, including at-large districts, etc. Committee members will receive material about other communities that are successfully working and how they are structured. McCarthy asked if there is an expert on the subject for the next meeting. Coe suggested there will be guest speakers and data but experts have been difficult to identify on this subject.

Speakers

Chair Coe recognized a speaker from the audience, Holly Borghese, 1562 Myrtle Avenue, North Linden Area Commission. Ms. Borghese asked if someone has a question or an issue that they would like addressed but can't make it to the meeting, could he/she e-mail it to the Committee and the discussion occur in the meeting and be reflected in the minutes. Chair Coe responded that the committee may not be able to address every question but materials, questions and comments submitted via e-mail will be reviewed to determine if they fit within the scope of this committee and

can be addressed at the next meeting. Borghese questioned that if the inquiry doesn't get discussed at the next meeting, would it be tabled to another meeting. Chair Coe indicated that each meeting will have different topics, so if the comment pertains to subject matter of a different meeting, we may hold off talking about it until that time. She reiterated either way, all materials and comments that are submitted to the committee will be included in the records retained as part of the committee's work.

Adjournment

Hearing no further questions or concerns, Chair Coe asked for a motion to adjourn.

McCarthy moved, Barroso de Padilla seconded. Motion carried, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Chair Coe thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked CTV for their assistance in setting up the meeting.