

CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 28, 2011 — City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Charter Commission co-chair Mark White.

In attendance: Bill Gentile, Damien Hall, Hank Miggins, Shelli Romero, Cassie Cohen, Sattie Clark, Jan Campbell, Tricia Knoll, Jo Ann Hardesty, Steve Weiss, Anita Yap, Rich Rodgers, Mark White

Guests: Linly Reese, Tom Walsh, unidentified guest

Co-chair Mark White opened the meeting with an overview of the meeting content, noting that the meeting would also include several public hearings for proposed housekeeping agenda items that would be under consideration for a vote by the Charter Commission at the December 21 meeting. A quorum was confirmed with the 13 Commissioners in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded. A vote followed with all Commissioners voting aye except for Tricia Knoll, who voted no, and Sattie Clark and Anita Yap who both abstained. Minutes were approved.

The meeting moved directly into public hearings. Each of the following hearings was opened and closed with no public comment except as noted.

- Amend Charter Section 1-106
- Amend Section 2-105(a)(14)
- Delete Charter Section 2-105(a)(50)
- Delete Charter Section 2-105(a)(51)
- Delete Charter Section 2-105(a)(54) — Commissioner Knoll stated that the Human Rights Commission submitted a letter of support for the deletion of this proposed amendment and the immediately previous amendment. She also noted that the Portland Commission on Disability had submitted a letter in support of this proposed amendment. Co-chair White noted to attendees that the pages at the entry to Council Chambers were copies of these two letters of support.
- Amend Section 2-108

- Amend Section 2-206(b)
- Amend Section 13-301
- Delete Chapter 14

Co-chair White opened a final public hearing to give attendees the opportunity to present on a proposed amendment they may have missed or to comment on any issue they would like to see the Charter Commission review.

Testimony was given by one attendee, Joe Wash. Mr. Walsh's testimony included a request for the Commission to consider retiring the Mounted Police Unit (MUP). He stated the recent use of the horses and pepper spray against Occupy Portland protesters was unwarranted and dangerous to not only protestors, but also the horses. He commented on a lack of care and respect of the horses stating they were tools of the police and the risk of injury was great because of a lack of caring about the welfare of the horses. He strongly encouraged the Commission to end the use of the MUP and the use of pepper spray by police.

The two guests in attendance asked some clarifying questions, which Chair White responded.

After this discussion the meeting then moved on to committee reports. Commission Weiss gave a report on the Independent Utility Commission Committee. He stated that the Committee expected a draft amendment from the City Attorneys office any day. Commissioner Weiss made a motion for the Charter Commission to authorize two public hearings on the impending draft amendment for an Independent Utility Commission to be held by the end of January. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hardesty. A friendly amendment was made by Commissioner Rodgers and accepted by Commissioner Weiss as follows: the intent of the Commission is that a vote by the Charter Commission will not happen on the issue immediately after the two public hearings. In response to a question from Commissioner Knoll, Commissioner Weiss clarified that the motion was not intended to preclude any other issues at these public hearings. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Knoll gave a brief report on the Human Rights Committee to

the effect that the committee was on hold pending decisions by the Human Rights Commission on whether now is the appropriate time to move forward with such an amendment.

Commissioner Clark gave a brief report on the Instant Runoff Voting Committee. She stated that the committee is still in the information gathering stage and is working closely with Occupy Portland.

Commissioner Hardesty stated her interest in police accountability noting the recent indictment of a police officer was the first ever. She asked if there was interest from other Commissioners in participating in a Police Accountability Committee. Commissioners Miggins, Clark, and Rodgers all acknowledged interest. Co-Chair White declared the formation of the new Police Accountability Committee based on the interest of at least two Commissioners in participating on the Committee as stated in the Charter Commission protocols.

Co-chair White publicly acknowledged the contributions of Commissioners Yap and Knoll who have stated their intention to resign at the end of the calendar year. Commissioner Knoll stated she had decided to remain on the Commission through June. Commissioner Gentile, who had also stated his intent to resign at the end of the calendar year, stated he is still deciding whether or not to continue. Co-chair White acknowledged his intent to resign at the end of the calendar year and thanked the Commission for the experience.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.