

Charter Review Committee

February 5, 2020

Minutes

Present Committee Members: Ed Cameron (minutes), Denis Kennedy, School Committee Member Bruce Menin, Connie Preston, Councillor Heather Shand, Sheila Taintor, Councillor Charlie Tontar (Chair), Juliet Walker, Councillor Sharif Zeid.

Public: Jeff Cutter, Jeanette Isabella, Jane Snow.

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

January 29 Minutes will be reviewed at next meeting.

Chair reviewed ways to change charter, recommendations by Committee, Home Rule Process, an Elected Charter Commission. 43B, Section 10 allows for amending. In any event, likely needs to go to the ballot. Chair will clarify what Kopelman and Paige Attorney Goldberg reported to Committee.

Public Comment:

Jane Snow mentioned the timing of the CIP. Jeanette Isabella asked about process.

Chair will circulate link to old minutes from 2011.

Jane Snow mentioned some community interest in Rank Choice Voting; she did not say she was in favor.

Chair reports and read from two emails from public. Amy Roberts of 5 Dexter Street advocates for City Manager and if there is a Mayor that Mayor not preside over School Committee. Brin Stevens of 195 High Street advocates for City Manager. Chair will enter emails into the record.

Public Comment closed.

Denis Kennedy suggests soliciting ideas from School Committee, Administration, and Council.

Committee agreed to start with Articles 1 and 2 at next meeting to review and understand with discussion of potential changes.

Chair will request City Clerk to set up a charter page on website with email contact information on members.

Councillor Zeid will finalize a flow chart of the ways to make charter changes.

Additional Public Comment:

Jane Snow asked to have copies of charter available.

Next Meeting on February 12 at 8pm, agreed to have at Senior Community Center.

On a motion by Bruce Menin, seconded by Connie Preston, Committee voted to adjourn at 7:42PM.