



**Charter Review Commission
Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers, City Hall
Tuesday, April 8, 2014**

Commission Members Present:

Rafael Anchia
Jan Hart Black
Liz Cedillo- Pereira
Robert Chereck
Levi Davis, First Vice Chair
Eva Elvove
Lois Finkelman, Second Vice Chair
Michael Northrup
Tom Perkins
Jeanne Phillips
Diane Ragsdale
Paul Rich
Bob Stimson
Mary Suhm
Max Wells

Staff Members Present:

Anna Holmes
Tricia Horatio
Parris Long
Barbara McAninch
John Rogers
Elizabeth Zornes

Commission Members Absent:

Alan Walne

5:40 PM Meeting called to order by Rafael Anchia

A quorum was present

Welcome and Work Plan

Presenter(s): Rafael Anchia

Discussion Item: Chair Anchia gave a recap of the community meeting held April 5, 2014, where the Commission received comment from the public regarding redistricting, council pay and terms and opposition to any form of privatization.

Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2014 and April 1, 2014 meetings

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commissioner Northrup made a motion to approve the Minutes from the meetings held on March 27, 2014 and April 1, 2014. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Chereck.

Motion passed unanimously



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Consideration of amendment to Chapter III § 17

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commissioner Hart Black made a motion to approve proposed amendments to Chapter III § 17, which prohibits officers and employees from running for office. The suggested language includes municipal judges with all board and commission members, including DART and DFW board members, as well as any officer of the city. The charter will also be amended to conform to state law (Texas Local Government Code § 150.041) prohibiting the city from terminating an employee who runs for public office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Finkelman.

Motion passed unanimously

Consideration of amendment to Chapter XXII § 11

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commissioner Wells made a motion to approve the amended proposed amendments to Chapter XXII § 11 regarding prohibitions on financial interests in public contracts. DART board members appointed by Dallas will be treated as city officials and the prohibition on financial interests in city contracts are in alignment with Dallas City Code Chapter 12A or Texas Local Government Code § 171. The amended version requires that city officials and employees are to comply with both the Dallas City Code Chapter 12A and the Texas Local Government Code § 171. Motion seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Motion passed unanimously

Consideration of amendments to chapter VIII § 4A

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commissioner Stimson made a motion to approve proposed amendments to Chapter VIII § 4A concerning the removal of municipal judges. The proposed amendments states a municipal judge may be removed from office if they become a candidate for nomination or election. A cross reference to Chapter III § 17 in which a municipal judge must resign if they run for office. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Perkins.

Motion passed unanimously

Expert Testimony on Redistricting

Presenter(s): Tailim Song

Discussion Item: Tailim Song of the Greater Dallas Asian –American Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Commission about redistricting and the Asian-American community in Dallas. Mr. Song is in favor of an independent, racially and ethnically diverse redistricting commission.

Briefing on Redistricting

Presenter(s): Barbara McAninch

Discussion Item: Assistant City Attorney McAninch briefed the Commission on the redistricting history and process. Chapter IV § 5 of the charter addresses the redistricting process. The Voting Rights Act and



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its relationship to the redistricting process was a topic of discussion. The redistricting process of various cities in the State of Texas was compared to the Dallas process.

Work Session on Redistricting

Discussion Item: Chair Anchia presented a redistricting worksheet to facilitate consideration of the proposed amendments to Chapter IV § 5 of the Charter.

- (1) The Commission approved changing the language of when to begin the redistricting process.
- (2) Consensus was reached in requiring the city secretary to initiate a 60 day application process for all registered voters for to apply to be a member of the redistricting commission. The applications are to be submitted in writing.
- (3) No consensus was reached regarding the determination of qualifying skill sets being included in the charter in respect to being a member of the redistricting commission.
- (4) Consensus was reached on disqualification rules for potential redistricting commission members. No consensus was reached on the length of time a candidate must be removed from appointed or elected office.
- (5) Consensus was reached on the city secretary receiving applications for the redistricting commission by April 1, with the independent city auditor to review the applications for disqualifying characteristics and conflicts of interest.

Discussion Item: Votes on recommended amendments will take place on April 22, 2014. The community meeting will be rescheduled to April 29, 2014.

Requests for information: Commissioner Finkelman requested that language be drafted to move the City Council elections from May to November. Commissioner Finkelman requested a map simulating the effects of moving a district line by 2%.

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commissioner Finkelman made a motion to amend the charter to require applicants of the redistricting commission to be registered voters along with the condition of voting in the past two of three municipal elections. Motion seconded by Commissioner Perkins.

Motion passed by majority
Commissioners Chereck, Northrup and Rich voted Nay

Meeting adjourned at 8:24



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Chair

Commission Administrator