



**Charter Review Commission
Meeting Minutes
Dallas City Hall, Room 6ES
Tuesday, February 4, 2014**

Committee Members Present:

Representative Rafael Anchia, Chair
Jan Hart Black
Robert Chereck
Levi Davis, First Vice Chair
Eva Elvove
Lois Finkelman, Second Vice Chair
Michael Northrup
Tom Perkins
Diane Ragsdale
Paul Rich
Bob Stimson

Staff Members Present:

Anna Holmes
Tricia Horatio
Biliera Johnson
Craig Kinton
Parris Long
Barbara McAninch
Rosa Rios
John Rogers
Elizabeth Zornes

Committee Members Absent:

Liz Cedillo- Pereira, Jeanne Phillips, Mary Suhm,
Alan Walne, Max Wells

5:55 p.m. Meeting called to order by Chair, Rafael Anchia. A quorum was present.

Chair's Welcome

Presenter(s): Rafael Anchia

Discussion Item: Chairman Anchia gave overview of agenda for scheduled meeting

Selection of Commission Vice Chair and Housekeeping

Presenter(s): Rafael Anchia

Discussion Item: Chairman Anchia explained that scheduling conflicts would necessitate the need for a First Vice Chair and a Second Vice Chair to provide coverage in the absence of the Chairman and/or First Vice Chair.

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Chairman Anchia made a motion to approve naming Commissioner Levi Davis as First Vice Chair and Commissioner Lois Finkelman as Second Vice Chair of the Commission. Motion seconded by Michael Northrup.

Motion passed unanimously

Presenter(s): Rosa Rios

Discussion Item: City Secretary Rosa A. Rios provided Commission Members with instructions on how to complete the required videos on open government and the ethics code. Ms. Rios advised Commission Members to send forms to the City Secretary's Office as they are completed.

Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2014 Meeting

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Chairman Anchia moved approval of minutes from the 1/31/2014 Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Lois Finkelman.



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Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Meeting Schedule

Presenter(s): Rafael Anchia

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commission agreed to meet on Tuesday nights at Dallas City Hall. Four community meetings will be held to receive input/comments from the public. Chairman Anchia made a motion to approve the revised meeting schedule. Motion seconded by Lois Finkelman.

Motion passed unanimously

Recap of 2002 and 2005 Charter Review Activities

Presenter(s): Barbara McAninch, Rosa Rios

Discussion Item: The City Secretary presented a comprehensive review of the 2002 Charter Review Commission's recommendations to the City Council and items placed on the 2005 ballot. The report included how many items/propositions appeared on actual 2005 ballot as well as detailed information on the 13 propositions. 12 of 13 propositions passed. The one exception was the Strong Mayor amendment. The 2002 Charter Review Commission report is detailed by charter sections.

Barbara McAninch provided a history of charter review since 2001, including amendments proposed by petition, and items on the 2005 ballot.

Staff explained how multiple items on the ballot can be grouped together by related topic to form one proposition on the ballot. All items need to be related and the ballot item has to be clearly presented to the voters.

Request for Information: The Commission asked staff to prepare the following information:

1. Meeting minutes of 2001 and 2005 Charter Review Commission to determine why some of the items were put on the ballot and why some items were not included on the ballot, if available.
2. Total number of registered voters currently in the City of Dallas.

General Discussion of Amendments to Charter

Presenter(s): John Rogers, Commission Staff

Discussion: Commission Staff detailed the suggested amendments to the Dallas City Charter solicited from City Council, Assistant City Managers, Department Directors and Attorneys within the City Attorney's Office. The suggestions are grouped by policy, operational and technical issues.

Request for Information: The Commission asked staff to prepare the following information:

1. Research Chapter III Section 3 of City Charter to determine if new case law contradicts this portion of City Charter.
2. Research Chapter III Section 17(a) to determine if D/FW International Airport Board qualifies as a City Board/Commission.
3. Staff to group all technical corrections to City Charter and provide list to Commission for review at meeting scheduled for February 18, 2014.
4. Commission requests City Departments most affected by the suggested amendments be present for Q&A at the February 18, 2014 Commission meeting. These Departments include the City Secretary's Office, the City Attorney's Office, the Chief Financial Officer and the City Auditor.



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5. Request for historical data on why some departments are more autonomous than others.
6. Request for a survey of other cities to look at what departments are autonomous.
7. Details of lawsuit involving a municipal judge who would not resign her seat to run for another judgeship.
8. List of suggested charter amendments that are actually code amendments rather than charter amendments.

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commissioner Bob Stimson made a motion to send all technical corrections to the City Attorney's Office for review. Italicized items on list provided by John Rogers to be reference point. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lois Finkelman.

Votes: 10 Ayes

1 Nay

(Commissioner Tom Perkins opposed due to all items not being insignificant or simply technical changes, would like more debate)

Commissioner Stimson amended his motion to provide that the list comes back to the Commission for agreements on which items are purely technical and then goes to the City Attorney's Office to prepare a proposition of technical corrections/clarifications. Seconded by Commissioner Finkelman

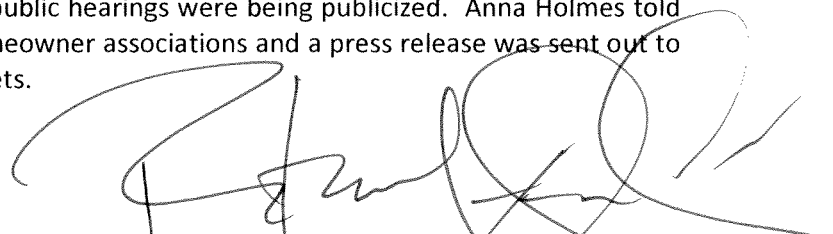
Motion Passed by majority

Action Taken/Item for Consideration: Commissioner Robert Chereck made a motion for the compilation of a list of items to be further defined as to whether operational or policy concerns should be addressed by City Ordinance or the City Charter. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tom Perkins.


Motion Passed unanimously

Commissioner Finkelman asked Staff how the public hearings were being publicized. Anna Holmes told the Commission that a flyer was sent to all homeowner associations and a press release was sent out to the Dallas Morning News and other media outlets.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.



Chair



Commission Administrator