

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 8, 2017 – 8:00 a.m.
6th Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building

Commission Members Present:

Paul Bessel, Chair
Wendy Cohen
Sharon Freeman
Larry Lauer
Timothy Lighter
Joshua Lipsky
Aryeh Shudofsky
Jonelle Williams

Commission Members Absent:

Randy McDonald
Ed Wisneski

Staff:

Marie Jean-Paul, County Council
Josh Hamlin, County Council

Guests:

Barbara Braswell
Mary Lanigan, League of Women Voters of
Montgomery County
Mark Pierzchala, Rockville City Council
Judith Vandegriff
Michelle Whitaker

Commission Chair Paul M. Bessel called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

I. Administrative items:

- The agenda was adopted without objection.
- The minutes for the September 20, 2017 meeting were approved without objection.

II. Comments by any members of the public about anything within the jurisdiction of the CRC:

None.

III. Follow-up on October 18 Public Hearing:

Chair Bessel offered a summary of public comments received at the public hearing, and the CRC considered the issues discussed at the public hearing:

- Council composition;
- Redistricting Commission selection process; and
- direct election of Council President to a four-year term.

The CRC decided not to further consider recommending popular election of the Council President to a four-year term.

For discussion and vote at the December 13 meeting:

- Larry Lauer will prepare a written statement regarding a possible recommendation on changing the Charter provisions for the selection of the Redistricting Commission;
- Jonelle Williams and Sharon Freeman will collaborate on a written proposal to restructure the County Council to include 7 district and 2 at-large seats;
- Aryeh Shudofsky will draft a proposal to restructure the County Council to an all-district format; and
- Paul Bessel will draft a proposal to retain the current County Council structure of 5 district and 4 at-large seats.

IV. Reports from Research Groups:

a) **Financial**

b) **Government Structure**

c) **Personnel**

None.

V. Other business:

The CRC voted to remove discussion of the 9-vote requirement for certain property tax increases under Charter section 305 from the agenda for the January 2018 meeting.

The CRC voted to not consider amendments to or elimination of the collective bargaining provisions in Charter sections 510, 510A, and 511 Charter, and voted to not consider any amendments to Charter Sections 302, 307, and 308.

Larry Lauer suggested that there be something included in the 2018 CRC report recommending a joint meeting with the incoming CRC once they are appointed to ensure continuity and generally assist new CRC members in understanding their role and responsibilities. Staff will prepare this recommendation.

VI. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.