

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)
November 8, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.
County Office Building – Potomac River Conference Room
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Minutes

Commission Members Present: Jim Michaels, Chair Karen Cordry, Vice-Chair Dylan Presman (Virtual) Howard Denis Jeffrey Naftal (Virtual) Marvin Lynch Sherry Brett-Major David Nachtsheim (Virtual) Michael Persh Marcela Samuels (Virtual) CeCe Grant (Virtual)	Staff Present: Khandikile Sokoni, Office of the County Council Stephen Mathany, Office of the County Council Erin Ashbarry, Office of the County Attorney (Virtual) Dale Tibbitts, Office of the County Executive
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Commission Chair Jim Michaels called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:01 a.m.

1. Administrative Matters
 - a. Approved Agenda – Motioned by Mr. Presman
 - b. Minutes – Adopted as revised – Motioned by Mr. Presman – 2nd by Mr. Lynch
2. Circulated Materials
 - a. Discussed plans to distribute Outreach Plans document to Regional Citizen Advisory Boards – Motioned by Chair Michaels – 2nd by Mr. Presman
 - i. Added in item regarding comment deadline for first report (January 15) – Mr. Persh.
 - ii. Changes adopted by unanimous consent.
 - b. Decided to have one or two listening sessions around January prior to deliberation of decided upon issues.
3. Heard from Council Vice-President Andrew Friedson:
 - a. Items for the Charter Review Commission to consider:
 - i. Independently elect the Council President:
 1. Similar to City of Baltimore Council President
 2. Keep the current number of Councilmembers – Elected Council President would replace one of the four at large members.
 3. Council would still elect the Vice-President.
 - ii. Term Limits:
 1. Does not matter what seat you are in (District, Council President, At-Large) each have a maximum of three terms.
 2. Other option is to limit the Council President to one term only.
 3. Look at how the Planning Board term limits work.
 - iii. Staggering of terms:

1. There has been a large turnover of Councilmembers over the last two elections.
 2. Would need to determine what election cycle you would have the President term start.
 3. Terms would remain as four-year terms, but staggered elections would elect Councilmembers to overlapping terms.
- iv. Vacancies at the local level (section 106 Council – Section 205 Executive):
 1. Should there be special elections when there is a vacant Executive or Council seat?
 2. To the greatest extent possible, let the constituents decide on their representatives.
4. Topics that have been put on the table for discussion:
 - a. Specific proposals:
 - i. Direct election of Council President
 - ii. Council Structure
 - iii. Office of People's Counsel
 - iv. Budgetary sections of the Charter
 - b. Study groups for these items:
 - i. Council President Election – Mr. Natal, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Brett-Major, Ms. Samuels.
 - ii. Council election structure – Mr. Nachtsheim, Mr. Persh, Ms. Brett-Major, Ms. Samuels. After the meeting, Commissioner CeCe Grant also joined the study group on the Council election structure.
 - iii. Office of People's Counsel – Vice Chair Cordry, Chair Michaels, Mr. Nachtsheim.
 - iv. Budget sections of the Charter- Mr. Persh, Mr. Presman, Mr. Nachtsheim.
 - c. Informal status reports of study groups should be ready for next month.
5. Motion to adjourn – Chair Michaels – Second – Vice Chair Cordry

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 AM