

**TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

April 28, 2021

*** To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:**

https://zoom.us/rec/share/dHeI2vXwrDEPfkImFa0ChhdqWcksIwY4F-J0mAorNErt00X4foQRnn_8IRIEgELB.LNjv_GiS1t7Fb25P

**** If prompted for a password, enter: z=r2105K**

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A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by the Chair, Mr. Dixon and roll call was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Dixon, Chair, Jackie Downing, Vice Chair, Jeffrey Cohen, Jackie Downing, Nancy Olson, Myron Hul, Sarah Gallagher, Jay Kaye, Joshua Sprague-Oliveira, Todd Berton, Marnie Hebron

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tiffany Artis-Wilson, Todd Moler, Lamond Battle, Frank LaDore, Thomas Figlar

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Mednick, Counsel

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of March 31, 2021 moved by Ms. Downing, seconded by Mr. Kaye and approved.

Mr. Mednick began with Action Item 7 – Boards and Commissions and reviewed the red-line editorial changes made based on the group’s previous discussions.

In the section, “Role of Boards and Commissions”, he took out “quasi-judicial” and left “regulatory”.

In the section, “Department-based Policy and Administrative Functions” He said he listed them in the annotations

In the section, “Chairs and Other Officers” he added that commissions can have mandatory attendance requirements.

In the Section, “Limitations of Service” he reviewed the language about the limitation of twelve years of service on Boards and Commissions.

In the Section, “Vacancy” –“Resignation Notice to the Town Clerk” he reviewed the date of resignation is the date a letter of resignation is received by the Town Clerk or if an oral statement is made on record in a

Board or Commission meeting and the minutes are transmitted to the Town Clerk-the effective date is the date of receipt by the Town Clerk.

In the section, "Removal"- "persistent absence" wording added is "as defined by Ordinance or the rules of the Board or Commission". Mr. Hul said he wants to put this definition in the Charter. There was discussion and no decision or action.

In the section, "District Representation" he reviewed the wording "if the member moves from the district"...membership on such Board or Commission shall be terminated". "in the event a member is removed from a district following reapportionment under §-3-7 of this Charter, the member may continue to represent the District on said board or Commission for the remaining of the term of office".

In the section, "Geographical Areas of the Town" he reviewed the wording "no Board or Commission should be comprised of members of the same Legislative Council District or a single portion of the Town. This Charter shall establish some Boards and commissions on the basis of the Legislative Council Districts however, in all cases each portion of the Town shall be represented on all Boards and Commissions.

In the section, "Additional Public Outreach" he reviewed the language "...the Mayor and the Clerk shall engage in outreach efforts including but not limited to the following in order to solicit candidates for positions on Boards and Commissions: political, religious, community based, social, mutual benefit organizations, civic and business organizations".

In the section "Library Board" he began review the wording regarding the selection of Library Members according to Legislative Council District. He began work on this section but it will require more work. He hopes to lay out the structure for the next meeting. Members of the Library Board will be attending a future Charter Revision Meeting to speak about this and Library Director appointing.

In "Inlands Wetlands" he said they added three alternates to the Inlands Wetlands Commission.

In the section, "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission" he reviewed the definitions the group worked on in the previous meeting. "There shall be a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission which shall have the task of shepherding equity for all residents of the Town particularly those who belong to marginalized and/or underserved communities based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and other protected classes as established by Ordinance upon recommendation of the Commission". There was discussion. Ms. Downing motioned to put the language back in.... "particularly those who belong to underserved communities, black and African American, Latina, Latino, Latinx, Indigenous and Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and other persons of color, members of religious minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, differently abled persons, persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality and other protected classes as established by Ordinance or by law upon recommendation of the Commission". Mr. Mednick noted to say "by federal and state law". It was pointed out that "persons with disabilities" is how it is stated in law. Ms. Downing said she would accept that as a friendly amendment. The motion was seconded by (voice not recognized). Mr. Dixon asked if all were in favor. The motion passed with 2 abstentions. The motion passed with all commissioners present saying "Aye" and two abstentions. Mr. Berton abstained and Ms. Olson abstained.

There was lengthy discussion of Section "Transition Provision Regarding Human Rights and Opportunities"- "Following the effective date of this Charter the Mayor shall appoint a task force for the purpose of preparing such ordinance for creation of a commission on human rights and Opportunities. Said task force shall propose an Ordinance to the Mayor and the Legislative Council within 6 months from the adoption of this Charter. The task force shall work with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and the Human Rights Commission regarding this endeavor. The task force may recommend consolidation of the commissions if

deemed appropriate”. The group agreed to change “6 months” to “12 months”. Mr. Mednick will revise wording in this paragraph with transition language that would indicate the task force will make recommendations to the Legislative Council on the possibility of a CHRO. The Council would receive such recommendations and the final decision would come from them.

In the section, “Board of Assessment Appeals’ Mr. Mednick said we’ve added two alternate members.

There was a discussion of,”Boards and Commissions”-“District Representation”. Which was previously discussed. Ms. Gallagher will work on suggested language for the paragraph and forward it to Mr. Mednick. Mr. Mednick pointed to page 6 “Geographic Areas of the Town” –“Representation on Boards and Commissions” as the section to review.

Mr. Dixon went to Agenda Item #4- Action Item # 8 - “Police Commission - Civilian Review Boards”

Mr. Mednick briefly reviewed the sections in above named Section. Mr. Dixon asked for the Vice Chair to discuss the next meeting because he wants to listen to speakers, have the CRC commissioners read through the content of this section then have a full discussion of the above content. He asked Mr. Mednick to review the content of this section. Sections reviewed or displayed on the screen are as follows: Section 7-2C- Boards and Commissions established by Charter -Police Commission: 1. Establishment, 2. Functions of the Commission, a. Community Collaboration, Outreach and Interaction, (i) Public Comment (ii)Information Sharing and Transparency (iii) consultations with the Mayor and the Chief of Police (iv) Civilian Review and Outreach, Subsection b- Oversight and Management, Subsection c –Policy Rules and Regulations Subsection d- Budget Review, Subsection e-Collective Bargaining, Subsection f- Personnel (i) Recruitment (ii) Training (iii) Appointment (iv) Promotion (v) Removal (vi) Recommendation of The Chief of Police, Subsection g-Complaints, Discipline Discharge and Removal Subsection h-Audits (i) Professional Services 3-Appointment and Membership, a-Term (i) Transition Provision Pertaining to the Appointment of Members to the Finance Commission.

The Commissioners planned the date and discussed items for the next meeting.

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:39 PM.

This meeting had no clerk. Meeting starting/ending times and attendance were best guessed while viewing the video.

Discussion summary typed while viewing the video and submitted by Rose Lion, Secretary to the Legislative Council

Ms. Renta, Legislative Council Administrator/Clerk reviewed the minutes and added the video link before filing.