

Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2013

8:00 a.m.

Black-Eyed Susan Conference Room

Members Present: Chair Steven VanGrack, Laura Berthiaume, John Britton, Don Hadley, Susan Hoffmann, Joseph Jordan, Charles Littlefield, and Virginia Onley,

Members Absent: Margaret Chao and Rev. Jane Wood.

Staff Present: City Clerk Doug Barber, Assistant to the City Clerk Sara Ferrell, and City Attorney Debra Daniel.

The Charter Review Commission met at 8:10 a.m. on Friday, February 22, 2013, in the Black-Eyed Susan Conference Room at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland.

Welcome

Chair VanGrack opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Approval of Minutes:

City Clerk Barber presented the following Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes for adoption: February 8, 2013.

Motion: To approve the minutes of February 8, 2013, as corrected.

Moved by Commissioner Jordan, duly seconded by Commissioner Hadley, and approved with Commissioner Britton abstaining.

Follow-Up from February 8, 2013 Meeting

Chair VanGrack asked staff if they had contacted the Montgomery Board of Elections regarding clarification on placing advisory referenda questions on the ballot. City staff advised that confirmation has been obtained from the County on the issue.

Chair VanGrack asked staff the status of sending elected officials who provided feedback to the Commission, and other interested parties, the Final Report. City Clerk Barber responded that he would send all parties the web link to the Commission's Final Report.

Proposed Language for Advisory Referenda Questions

Commissioner Berthiaume presented the Commission with the revised language for the advisory referenda questions. The Commission discussed at length and provided comments and recommended revisions. Additionally, there was discussion on the proposed language regarding the preface for the referenda questions.

There was broad and general discussion on the proposed responses to the questions and deliberation on whether it should be:

Yes/No and No Opinion vs. Strongly Agree/Strongly Disagree

After a lengthy discussion, the Commission deliberated on using:

Yes/No vs. Yes/No and No Opinion

There was agreement that this issue should be presented to the Mayor and Council for their opinion.

Next Meeting

Chair VanGrack requested another meeting to allow for all the Commissioners to see the final version of the **proposed advisory referenda questions that contain the points discussed during the meeting.** The Commission will review and discuss at the next meeting.

The Commission proposed the following dates for the next meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2013; Friday, March 15, 2013; and Wednesday, March 20, 2013, all to begin at 8:00 a.m. Staff will send out the proposed dates to the Commission and the date with the strongest response would be selected.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Motion: To adjourn

Moved by Commissioner Berthiaume, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann,