

Meeting Minutes
CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS 2014 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Lion's Room, Willoughby Hills Community Center

Call to order by Chairman Andy Gardner at 7:09 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Chairman Mr. Andy Gardner, Dr. Stephen Atkins, Mrs. Joyce Grady, Mrs. Jennifer Greer, Mrs. Judy Shrefler, Mrs. Sandy Taddeo, Mrs. Tanya Taylor-Draper, Vice Chairman W. James Walsh and Mr. Jerry Wolanin

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Charter Review Commission minutes from 02/03/15:
(amended to reflect Pancake Breakfast date is 3/8/15, not 3/18/15)
Motion to approve the minutes by Vice Chairman Jim Walsh.
Seconded by Joyce Grady.
Vote: 9 AYES/0 NAYES; MOTION PASSES

Approval of Procedures:

Approval for Rules of Public Portion during Charter Review Commission Meetings as noted on 2/17/15 Agenda (Public Portions at Beginning and End of Commission Meetings, 3-minute limit per speaker):
Motion to approve as presented by Chairman Gardner made by Joyce Grady.
Seconded by Tanya-Taylor Draper.
Vote: 9 AYES/0 NAYES; MOTION PASSES

Public Portion:

Section 107.08 – Public Meetings of Municipal Bodies of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby Hills: (a) All meetings of any municipal body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times. All meetings shall provide a reasonable opportunity to hear public opinion. Pursuant to a Resolution of the Commission adopted on February 17, 2015, Public Portion is limited to 3 minutes per speaker and will occur at the Beginning and End of Commission meetings.

Public Portion opened at 7:13 p.m. No one chose to speak. Public Portion closed at 7:13 p.m.

Old Business:

Jerry Wolanin confirmed that he had drafted a document inviting City Departments, Boards and Commissions to participate in Public Hearings on March 2 and March 16, 2015. Clerk Gloria Majeski emailed this document to all City Departments, Boards and Commissions on February 6, 2015.

Chairman Andy Gardner confirmed that Council Clerk sent out Public Hearing Notices to newspaper and posted as required.

New Business:

Chairman Gardner asked for a motion to accept the Procedure and Rules for Charter Review Commission Public Hearings, as per the draft proposal submitted by him and attached to 2/17/15 Agenda. This procedure is the same as that which was used by the 2014 Charter Review Commission:

- Allowing all members of the community present at the hearing the opportunity to address the Commission for seven (7) minutes;
- Allowing after every member of the community who is present at the hearing that wishes to address the Commission has had an opportunity to speak, any member of the community that would like a second (or first) opportunity to speak to the Commission, will have an opportunity to speak for seven (7) minutes;
- Allowing after the Commission has offered those members of the community present at the hearing a second chance to speak to the Commission. All members of the community that would like to speak will be granted a final seven (7) minutes to speak that evening;
- Allowing after the Commission has offered three rounds of opportunities to the public to speak, the hearing will close;
- Excepting that no member of the community may speak during more than four (4) of the six (6) total opportunities provided by the Commission.
- Excepting that City Departments, Boards and Commissions are exempt from the time limits herein proposed.

Motion was made to accept this Procedure and Rules for Charter Review Commission Public Hearings by Joyce Grady.

Seconded by Jerry Wolanin.

Vote: 9 AYES/0 NAYES; MOTION PASSES.

Chairman Gardner asked for a motion to clarify the number of Charter Review Commission member votes required to put items on ballot. The 2014 Charter Review Commission had agreed on 6 votes of the CRC being required to place items on the ballot. Members discussed this number and their thoughts on also agreeing on the number “6” for ballot placement.

Motion was made to require six (6) Charter Review Commission members to vote for items to be placed on the ballot by Vice Chairman Jim Walsh.

Seconded by Judy Shrefler.

Vote: 9 AYES/0 NAYES; MOTION PASSES.

Chairman Gardner passed out a “Proposed Schedule of Charter Review Commission Meetings”, which outlined dates and topics for future meetings. The Commission discussed the schedule. Dr. Atkins suggested reviewing the topic set for the following meeting’s discussion at the current meeting for pre-consideration of the items. Chairman Gardner suggested that the “Issues List” will help with this, too. Future agendas will include the updated “Issues List” for “opening thoughts.” Chairman Gardner indicated that the “Issues List” is currently arranged sequentially, with the exception of a few “add ons” at the end of the list. This list should probably be updated sequentially (even if the numbering is now “off” and will not coincide with the “Prioritization List”), to be able to cover each item in our discussions. Tanya Taylor-Draper suggested assigning the two-person teams for ballot language preparation now, rather than waiting. Dr. Atkins suggested taking a “straw poll” at the meeting before the discussion will take place and, if a Commission member has an interest in that topic, they can indicate it at that time. Vice Chairman Jim Walsh agreed that the schedule is a good plan. Chairman Gardner added, “Those who fail to plan, plan to fail.” (Quote by author Michael Baisden).

Charter Review of Article I – The Municipality

Members were given an opportunity to review this section of the Charter. No other items of concern were offered by the Commission. The one item on the “Issues List” (Section 1.2) was discussed. This concerned deleting “Special” or “Primary Election” as related to performing certain actions in the municipality, such as “annexation, merger or termination.” When this item was brought to the Commission for discussion, it was a concern that an item could be brought forth in a Special or Primary election in the hopes that voter turnout would be low and the item would pass. Jennifer Greer suggested that she would hope that there would be a lot of discussion prior to the issue being placed on the ballot and hopefully voter turnout would indicate the residents’ concern for the issue. Also, if “time is of the essence”, it may be a detriment to the City to wait until a November election to take care of the concern. Jerry Wolanin agreed that it was “urgency versus a minority pushing something through.” Judy Shrefler said she was weighing both sides, but may be siding toward “General Election” only. Sandy Taddeo added that she, too, was trying to weigh both sides and could see the advantages and disadvantages to both. Dr. Atkins said that he thought the “City would likely advertise enough to get the word out to the voters.” “If we allow it, we entrust those to make

judgment calls to do it.” Jennifer Greer pointed out that she feels a “Special Election” brings issues to more of a spotlight. A straw poll was then taken between all members, giving them an opportunity to vote on the issue in the following manner:

- “Leave “as is””
- “Change is worth considering”
- “I need more time to consider”

The straw poll was unanimous to leave Article 1.2 “as is.” This will be noted on the “Issues List” worksheet.

New Business closed at 7:55 p.m.

Public Portion

Section 107.08 – Public Meetings of Municipal Bodies of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby Hills: (a) All meetings of any municipal body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times. All meetings shall provide a reasonable opportunity to hear public opinion. Pursuant to a Resolution of the Commission adopted on February 17, 2015, Public Portion is limited to 3 minutes per speaker and will occur at the Beginning and End of Commission meetings.

Public portion opened at 8:00 a.m. No one chose to speak. Public Portion closed at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gardner presented the minutes of the 11/3/14 final meeting of the 2014 Charter Review Commission for approval.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Tanya Taylor-Draper.

Seconded by Sandy Taddeo.

Vote: 7 AYES/0 NAYES/2 Abstentions (Greer and Walsh); MOTION PASSES.

For the Good of the Order

Judy Shrefler – Ohio Academic Decathlon State Competition – March 6 and 7, 2015 from 3:30 – 9: 00 p.m. (includes dinner); at Lake Erie College; still looking for Speech and Interview judges

Chairman Andy Gardner – South High School Marching Band’s – “Night at the Races” - March 14, 2015 at Croatian Lodge. Please see him for tickets.

Vice Chairman Jim Walsh – Lent starts on Wednesday, February 11 – Reminder to attend St. Noel Fish Fry every Friday until Good Friday

Chairman Andy Gardner – City’s Pancake Breakfasts 3/1, 3/8, 3/15

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Judy Shrefler.
Seconded by Vice Chairman Jim Walsh.
Vote: 9 AYES/0 NAYES; MOTION PASSES.
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

DRAFT