

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS 2014 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pro Tem Jim Walsh at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Dr. Stephen Atkins, Mrs. Joyce Grady, Mrs. Judy Shrefler, Mrs. Sandy Taddeo,
Mrs. Tanya Taylor-Draper and Chairman Pro Tem Jim Walsh

Members Absent:

Chairman Andy Gardner, Mr. C.J. Latsa and Mr. Jerry Wolanin

Six of nine members are present – recognized as quorum.

Approval of Charter Review Commission minutes, as amended, of 07/15/14:

Motion to approve by Mrs. Sandra Taddeo

Motion seconded by Mrs. Joyce Grady

ROLL CALL: 6 AYES - unanimous MOTION PASSES.

Approval of Charter Review Commission minutes of 07/21/14:

Motion to approve by Mrs. Tanya Taylor-Draper

Motion seconded by Mrs. Judy Shrefler

ROLL CALL: 6 AYES – unanimous MOTION PASSES.

Appointment of a Vice Chair for Tonight's Meeting:

Motion made by Mrs. Joyce Grady to appoint Mrs. Judy Shrefler as Vice Chair for
Tonight's meeting.

Motion seconded by Dr. Stephen Atkins.

ROLL CALL: 6 AYES – unanimous MOTION PASSES.

Correspondence:

Law Director Lobe provided a document entitled "Ohio Ethics Commission Information Sheet: Advisory Opinion No. 2010-03 Nepotism Restrictions" that he would like the Commission to review prior to next meeting so he can come to discuss this as related to Article IX.

Public Portion:

Public Portion opened at 6:40 p.m.

The following individuals spoke:

1. **Mr. Robert Kowalsky, 2585 Timberline Drive, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094**
Mr. Kowalsky showed the Commission three News-Herald articles dated 7/25/07, 7/26/07 and 7/29/07 regarding "Report on WH Mayor" which encompassed a 300-page report on former Mayor Kenneth Lorenz. He questioned "Why so long to release it?" "They (the media) control the election."

Public Portion closed at 6:49 p.m.

A Presentation by the Civil Service Commission Members followed:

- 1) Civil Service Chairman Thomas Majeski provided a handout which outlined for the CRC his qualifications to serve on the Commission. Further, he explained the problems he felt existed in Article IX and Civil Service's request to change Article IX to be able to classification of some of the current "Unclassified Civil Service" employees to "Classified Civil Service."
- 2) Civil Service Vice Chairman Thomas Kicher spoke to the CRC regarding his qualifications to serve on the Civil Service Commission. He then suggested revisions to the Civil Service Code (Article 9.44). We currently have 18 Full-time Police Department Sergeants and Patrol Officers who are Classified Civil Service. In the Police Department, there are 6 Dispatchers, 10 Part-time Patrolmen, the Police Chief and One Executive Assistant to the Police Chief – all of these positions are "Unclassified Civil Service." In the Fire Department, we currently have 9 Full-time Firefighters in the "Classified Civil Service" classification. In addition, we have 29 Part-time Firefighters, the Fire Chief and One Executive Assistant to the Fire Chief. These positions are "Unclassified Civil Service." Mr. Kicher stated that he feels it is prudent to review the credentials of all full-time and part-time personnel. Mayor Weger has asked them to review Part-time candidates, but this is ad hoc and not

currently in the Charter. He felt it is “important to ensure all candidates receive the same treatment and opportunity.” There is a history of some candidates being “screened out” because they were not appropriate for employment.

- 3) Secretary Carolyn Patton gave the CRC her background and qualifications to serve on the Civil Service Commission. She stated that the Commission’s original task was to update the Civil Service manual, to “align Willoughby Hills’ rules with mandates of Ohio.” She wants to continue to “role to make sure fairness in hiring and disciplinary process is in place for our residents.”

The Civil Service Commission presentation closed at 7:28 p.m.

Old Business:

Scoring Spreadsheet for Prioritizing Issues to be Discussed:

Chairman ProTem Walsh distributed a spreadsheet outlining each of the ballot issues to be discussed that was prepared by Chairman Andy Gardner. The Commission went line by line and gave a prioritization rating to each item (using the grading scale of 1 to 5, which 1 being the most important and 5 referenced those which may be able to be addressed at a later time).

Upon completion of the worksheet, discussion ensued as to which items should be focused on first. Dr. Stephen Atkins reminded the group that “Law Director Lobe suggested an opposing authority come in and in order to ‘get the ball rolling’ the Commission should pose questions to both legal authorities.” The group agreed it would be wise to bring in Assistant Prosecutor Karen Kowall (also a resident who may do this gratis for the Commission), rather than Attorney Steve Byron (son of Charter Author Barry Byron) who would likely have a fee involved with coming to speak to the group. The Clerk will contact Attorney Prosecutor Kowall to try to bring her in for the Monday or Tuesday meeting, hopefully in conjunction with Law Director Lobe’s presentation on Article IX. Mrs. Tanya Taylor-Draper agreed that “we need to aggressively attack Article IX, deal with the ‘elephant in the room’ and leave more clerical items on the table.” Dr. Stephen Atkins agreed that it would be wise to “swing and miss” and we may still have to “regroup with the deadline date and at least take a shot at it.”

New Business:

Chairman Pro Tem Walsh suggested that we discuss the best approach to begin to pursue Article IX, whether to distribute work items or “work it together.” Law Director Lobe’s presentation, hopefully with the input from Assistant Prosecutor Kowall should provide further direction in this regard. Mrs. Sandy Taddeo felt the “Ohio Ethics Commission will be helpful.” Our work may be simplified.

For the Good of the Order:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Joyce Grady seconded by Dr. Stephen Atkins.

ROLL CALL: 6 AYES – unanimous MOTION PASSES.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

APPROVED: 7/28/14



W. James Walsh, Vice Chairman
(in the absence of Chairman Gardner)

ATTEST: Gloria Majeski
Gloria Majeski