

<p>DRAFT Final Minutes. No further meetings planned.</p>
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CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 22, 2023

Orleans Town Hall Nauset Room and by Zoom

'23 JUN 2 11:03AM

Chair Jon Fuller called the Charter Review Committee to order at 5:30 pm. Vice-Chair Patricia Fallender, Members Robin Hubbard, Maxine Minkoff, and Walter North were present. Clerk Gail Meyers Lavin, Mark Berson, and Board Liaison Michael Herman via Zoom.

The Minutes of April 3, 2023 were moved by Walter North, seconded by Robin Hubbard, and voted unanimously by roll call 7-0-0.

CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Members expressed appreciation for the 4-page distillation of the Report and Recommendations. Mr North reminded Ms Lavin of his suggestion to split the first sentence into two, beginning the second sentence, "The Charter calls for..." Ms Fallender noted that "Home Charter" should say "Home Rule Charter" in the first sentence. Ms Lavin said that she would make the changes. On the question raised about Recommendation #3 in Executive Considerations, regarding the dual role of the Park Commissioners, Ms Lavin read out a portion of MGL Chapter 45 Section 2 on how the Commissioner membership is constituted:

"A town may elect a board of park commissioners, consisting of three or five persons and prescribe their terms of office, or the members of a town planning board or department of public works, or road commissioners may if so authorized by vote of the town act as park commissioners therein."

She questioned the second part of the sentence in Recommendation # 3:

"...whether their role as Park Commissioners might be better administered and complemented by a combined department that might include Parks, Natural Resources and Recreation, and possibly the Senior Center."

Members discussed the "vagueness" of MGL Section 2, the differences between Park Commissioners and a Department of Public Works, the issues that the Recreation Advisory Committee had brought to the CRC, and some frustrations about the Recreation Program's positioning within the Town throughout the CRC's term. After debating whether the CRC could make a strong recommendation without having voted on it at this stage, Ms Fallender suggested that the Select Board could keep being the Park Commissioners but organize a merged department structure underneath them – for example, Community Life.

Further discussion led to differing understandings of the role of the Park Commissioners, including its responsibilities in the statute for eminent domain and conducting park programs and recreational activities. Mr Fuller concluded that the consensus was that the language remain as it is and that the current language would identify the issue as something the Board could think about.

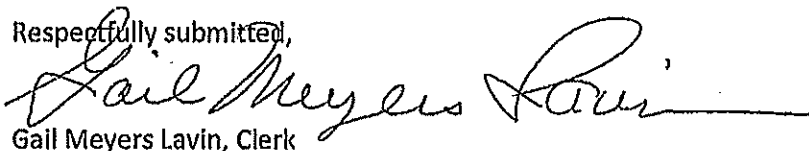
It was moved by Ms Fallender, seconded by Mr North, that the Charter Review Committee adopt the Final Report and Recommendations once amended as agreed during the meeting, and it passed unanimously by roll call 7-0-0.

Remaining Business: Ms Lavin raised submitting an Annual Report for 2023 before completing the CRC's term. Mr Fuller was not in favor. She reported that the Town Clerk had been able to put a list of 2022 Article numbers that passed at the May 16, 2023 ballot at the front of the eCode360 Charter <https://ecode360.com/14345881> while waiting for the updated pdf that the CRC would supply.

Mr Fuller asked members to go to Molly Bates in Town Hall to sign the letter with appendices as soon as Ms Lavin notified the Committee that it was there and that she had a receipt for it.

Mr Fuller asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Ms Hubbard, seconded by MS Minkoff, and voted unanimously by roll call 7-0-0 at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Meyers Lavin, Clerk