

Minutes

January 14, 2021—Charter Commission, City of Northfield

This meeting was conducted online via GoToMeeting.

Present: Lance Heisler, Jack Hoschouer, Scott Jensen, CC Linstroth, Scott Oney, James Prichard, Judith Schotzko

Also present: Ben Martig, Rhonda Pownell, Tracy Davis Heisler, David Ludescher, GU System User (not otherwise identified), Samuel Wilmes

1. Heisler called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
2. The agenda for tonight's meeting was approved unanimously.
3. Minutes from the November 19, 2020, meeting
 - a. Linstroth asked to add the names of the attorneys who sent the letter referenced in item 10 of the minutes.
 - b. With this addition, the minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Proposed amendment to Section 3.8 of the charter
 - a. Schotzko, Hoschouer, and Heisler met before the meeting to discuss how they would like the commission to proceed and concluded that this is not the right time to take another crack at it.
 - b. There was no motion to take further action, so for now nothing more will be done on this.
5. Proposed amendment to Section 14 of the charter regarding appointments to the hospital board
 - a. Linstroth reported on the status of the joint committee consisting of some members of the hospital board and city council. The draft of their anticipated report is finished and will be presented to the hospital board on January 28. Members of the Charter Commission should have access to the report before our March meeting.
 - b. We will take no action until our March meeting, by which time we will have seen the report.
6. Education committee report
 - a. Linstroth, Prichard, and Schotzko met on January 11.
 - b. The committee recommends that we proceed along three avenues: first educating ourselves about the Charter Commission, then working with the city

council to achieve a mutual understanding of our role, and then moving on to educating the larger community.

- c. Schotzko moved, and Prichard seconded, that we accept these three things and start with the first. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion of complaints regarding Charter Commission members Heisler and Oney

- a. Prichard chaired this part of the meeting.
- b. Prichard moved, and Hoschouer seconded, that we amend the agenda to separate the complaints against Heisler and those against Oney to two separate parts of the meeting, so that the question of whether the meeting is to be open or closed can be settled separately for each. The motion passed.
- c. Both Heisler and Oney have requested that the meeting be open.
- d. Prichard stated a possible resolution as follows: "The commission takes the position that members are expected to put their best efforts toward maintaining a respectful work environment." Schotzko moved to accept the resolution, and Hoschouer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Prichard offered the opportunity for public comment. Mayor Pownell, who had been observing the proceedings, commended us all for staying calm and showing leadership. Prichard then returned the meeting to Heisler.

8. Adjournment

- a. Heisler thanked Prichard for chairing part of the meeting.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

9 March 2023 Charter Commission Meeting

Heisler and Oney, starting at about 25:55

HEISLER: Well, I think one of the issues is what would it take for varying degrees of access from the city's standpoint in terms of technology and staff. My sense is that to have one person appear on this commission would be pretty simple but, you know, to have a system where the public could actually come in and also, that might be more complicated, I don't know, but so, I guess the long and short of it is would we be in favor of Ben just looking into that a little more, in a little more detail so we would at least know what are the options, what would they cost in terms of staff time and technology, equipment, or whatever they might need to do that I mean, presumably, the city council maybe has all that already but I don't know. So what's your feeling on that, about having . . . yeah, go ahead, Scott.

ONEY: You'll probably guess what I'm gonna say. Ben hasn't been real honest with us so far, and like I said, I haven't looked at it for like seven years, but I remember looking at it, um, it's pretty well covered. If they've changed the laws, the League of Minnesota Cities probably has an update to the sections that are in there, so--

HEISLER: Yeah, I'm not so much interested in the law now as the technology, like [continues with discussion].