

**CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

October 30, 2024

Regular Meeting

1. The regular meeting of the Charter Review Committee was called to order by Chair Frea at 5:35 p.m. in the Council Conference Room of City Hall, 4035 Broadway. Roll call was called and the following were present:

David Frea, Wayne Kintz, Mike Linder, Brian Parks, Jeff Ritchie, Chris Roach, Cindy Sgalla, Judith Zimomra.

Absent: Karen Evans

Ex-Officio members: Ted Berry, Christine Houk, Mayor Stage. Support Staff: Tami Kelly. Also present: Chuck Boso, City Admin.

2. Mr. Parks moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; seconded by Ms. Sgalla. Motion unanimously approved.
3. Chair Frea as the members how they feel the Charter sets up the City for good outcomes.

Mr. Parks said housing and job growth.

Mr. Frea said citizens can proactively participate in our government.

Mr. Roach said it allows Council & the Mayor to do the will of the people. Chair Frea followed up with it is balanced and represents the broadest will of the citizens.

Mr. Kintz suggested that the Charter provide Council with more participation in selecting Board and Commission members. Mr. Linder asked how easy it is to appoint people to these Boards & Commissions. Mr. Roach said this was discussed heavily at the last Charter Review and the committee decided not to recommend changes.

Chair Frea said he wants elected officials to work together, collaboratively for Boards & Commissions. It was suggested that a decision could be arrived at by consensus of all elected officials. Mayor Stage said he feels that starts with the election.

Ms. Zimomra said there is a clear delineation of power in the Charter and continuity of government.

Mr. Parks said it should be easy to know who the Council Members are and how to contact them.

A member said the citizens should love their government.

4. The Committee discussed Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Stage explained the process and how he appoints volunteers. He said that seats have overlapping terms and not everyone is up for an appointment at the same time.

Mr. Parks asked if there was any legal notice for vacancies. It was explained that there no required

legal notice. Chair Frea followed up by asking if there is an application process when openings occur. Mayor Stage said individuals will submit letters of interest and a biography when they are interested in serving. Those are kept on file to be used when an opening occurs.

The members discussed the powers given to Boards and Commissions as well as if some should have qualifications to be appointed. Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, said the Charter has nothing to do with the powers given to Boards and Commissions. That comes from Council and is part of the Code. He also shared that having qualifications for board and commission members in the Charter is limiting and difficult to change. He would not recommend having such language in the Charter.

Mr. Parks commented that even if the Charter isn't changed, there should be notice and letters of interest submitted for these appointments. Mayor Stage said they will add something to the website.

Discussion took place around having Council consent/confirm the Mayor's appointments to Boards and Commissions. Mr. Frea asked if the appointees report to anyone. Mr. Smith said they aren't employees, so they don't really report to anyone, similar to this Committee. Mr. Parks asked if there was a process to remove an appointee. Mayor Stage said when the term ends, they may not be reappointed. Mr. Smith said there can be a way if someone misses too many meetings consecutively.

The members then discussed term limits for appointees. Ms. Zimomra said you run the risk of losing good people. She said the person making the appointments should look at how long someone has served. She leans toward the quality of a person over term limits.

5. The next issue discussed was the appointment of Departments Heads and whether then need confirmation by Council.

It was explained how Department Heads are currently hired; who they report to after being hired; and how they are fired. Mayor Stage commented that no scenario is perfect. Mr. Frea said he feels like employees are insulated from politics under a Council/Manager form of government. Ms. Houk commented that there is a level of uncertainty that employees live in during an election year. Mayor Stage said the last thing we want this discussion to do is create anxiety with the Department Heads.

Chair Frea asked that they pick up this discussion at the next meeting.

6. Mr. Linder asked if the question of whether or not the government should be changed could be sent to the voters. Mr. Smith said that is very difficult to do.

Ms. Houk commented that we are not in a crisis. Council wants to know from this citizen group if there is a balance of power; if we have a participatory government. She said there are no perceived outcomes – they just want to hear from this group. Mayor Stage commented that he believes the resolution was presumptive to change to a City Manager form of government.

7. The Committee adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 7:43 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Secretary


David Frea
Chairman