CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES

November 06, 2024 Regular Meeting

1. The regular meeting of the Charter Review Committee was called to order by Chair Frea at 6:00 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, Kathleen Welsh.

   Ex-Officio members: Ted Berry. Support Staff: Shaina Rowe. Also present: Mayor Stage, Chuck Boso, City Admin.

2. The new appointment from Randy Holt, Kathleen Welsh, introduced herself to the group.

3. Mr. Frea passed out and explained the sheet he made that outlines goals for outcomes of the City Charter. He asked if anyone had any suggestions.

   Ms. Zimomra stated that the "firewalled" reference needs to be less biased. She suggested that it state that they are ensuring there are checks and balances within the City government. She also suggested changing the "non-political staffing" reference, since the consensus of the Committee was that it is not an issue currently. Mr. Frea acknowledged Ms. Zimomra's comments and reminded the committee that even though it may not be a current problem, they are looking at the Charter to help with the future state of the City.

4. Mr. Frea moved onto the section titled Process. Discussion ensued on the process of appointment for Boards and Commissions. The committee questioned whether the City Administrator should weed out unqualified applications; stack rank them without getting rid of any applications; and present Council the qualified applications to appoint. They would like to see this mainly for appointments to Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Park Board for more consensus. Members worried that asking applicants to come before City Council for evaluation may make them uncomfortable, thus apprehensive to apply.

   Ms. Sgalla expressed her concern about lacking access to new applications with the extra steps, but she stated that positions with more authority should go through this process. Members asked Mr. Smith, City Attorney, how communities like Hilliard and Dublin appoint their members and he explained.

5. The Committee then moved to discussion on whether Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Park Board should have more authority than they are currently granted. Mr. Smith explained that currently, the authority of Boards and Commissions is completely up to Council and not part of the Charter.

6. Going back to appointments, members thought it may be better to keep appointments with the Mayor and have Council vote on confirmation to make sure checks and balances are in place and overall consensus is met.

7. The Committee discussed terms and removal. Currently, there are 4-year terms for appointed members and no term limits. They discussed: reasons and situations where removal could be added into the Charter; if there is a confirmation process should removal be handled by a majority vote of Council; and the Director of Law position, who serves at the pleasure of the Mayor under a one year contract.

Mr. Frea suggested at the next meeting, they discuss the appointment of the City Administrator/ Manager.

8. The Committee adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Secretary

David Frea

David Frea
Chairman