



CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2012

Room 104

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Frank Coyle
Patrick Lapera
Judy Miko
Ken Nappi
Bronislaw Winnick

Commissioners Absent: Jack Bashar
Steve Bellis
Ruth Ann Dunford
Anthony Metz

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nappi called the Regular Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission to order at 7:07 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of April 10, 2012 was cancelled.

PUBLIC PORTION & COMMUNICATION

Chairman Nappi addressed the public as to what the ground rules for the public portions were to be. The Commission is here to hear the public and not debate them. By the rules of the Commission the public will be allotted five (5) minutes per person to address any concerns or requests. Depending on the number of public speakers and time the Commission may ask questions. The exception would be to have a formal invitation to be able to address this Commission at one of the meetings.

James Oraziatti
81 William Street

I am a member of the Board of Education for the town. I came just to touch on two things and possibly have this Commission consider. The first thing is something that has happened with me. I was put on and made Vice Chairman of the Perry Hill Building School Committee, when they were re-doing the school at Perry Hill. Later on, we found out that in the Charter it states that any member of the Board of Education cannot serve on other committees. I think it's important that you would consider having a member of the educational systems, especially the Board of Education on such projects as building projects, in particular any one that pertains to educational systems. We're involved in the day to day. We know what's going on with the daily activities and what's needed for the building. I would like you to reconsider that or maybe make a special provision. I do agree that maybe some Board of Education members should not be involved in other committees within the town but if you could somehow work it in that maybe the Board of Education members could be allowed to serve on a committee that pertains to the educational system and only that, it might be a good thing. There were a lot of things that transgressed in the building projects that only members that were involved within the educational system know about. A particular instance this building, if you were to say the Board of Aldermen couldn't be involved in the building committee for say a new City Hall, the Board of Aldermen they experience the daily running of the building, they would know that we would need a bigger auditorium for the public because sometimes we need a small room and other times we need a big one. Sometimes we have small meetings like this and sometimes we have large meetings and we need a large room. I'm kind of relating Board of Education to a Board of Aldermen in this situation. If you would discuss this, I would be available to answer any questions that you would have. I believe that it would be a good change.

Second thing that I was currently looking into was the makeup of the Board of Education with the minority representation being a 5-4 representation. As a Democrat, we're always on the poor side. I feel that the people in town aren't getting the representation. I would like to see the numbers change to maybe 7-2 minority representation is fine. I believe that as an American, and the people given the most votes should be the people leading you. That's how I feel. I feel that's something that you might want to take a look at. I've looked at the State Statutes, but I believe you have someone else looking at the State Statutes as well regarding

this. I feel that it's preposterous that we have 10 people running and 1 of them is going to lose, so it's 5 people that are selected by the Town Committees. I'd like to see 7 people run from each Town Committee and have the townsfolk actually have an input on who they want on the Board of Education. I believe that it's pre-determined before the election. That's just some input on that.

My main concern for tonight was the representation on the building committees for the Board of Education not being allowed to serve on a specific committee that relates to education. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Nappi stated if the Board will allow we will open a Q&A to Mr. Orazietti. It was agreed by the Commission to open a Q&A.

Commissioner Winnick stated I was to understand your position, you say that the Charter at the present time the Charter prohibits members of the Board of Education from serving on a building committee, but that would include a building committee that has the responsibility of developing the infrastructure plans for education. It's your position that since members of the Board of Education cannot serve on school building committee you believe that members of the Board of Education would have some valuable input within a building committee that's considered the construction of a school building. Is that correct? Mr. Orazietti responded that is correct.

Mr. Orazietti added by the way the Building Committees are appointed positions. You're not elected to that, you're appointed to that by the Mayor.

Chairman Nappi added just to clarify if you turn to 5.1.2. in the current Charter that is the current wording. Just to clarify for you Jim, that the Building Committees are an important appointment under Charter by the Board of Aldermen. So they really are a committee of the Board of Aldermen. There are 2 types of Building Committees. One could be a permanent Building Committee and the other is facility specific. However, there is representation usually from the Board of Education as an advisory member to the Board of which they serve. But your point will be considered by the Commission. The other thing is we are governed by State Statute as to minority representation depending on the size of the elected or appointed Boards and we've asked Attorney Bellis to check on those and have him provide us with the current Statutes so that we can look at them as well.

There were no further questions.

Judson Crawford
8 Jordan Avenue

I serve on the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and per the minutes of your meeting of March 15, it states that a letter from this Commission has been sent to all Boards and Commissions. The question I have for you this evening have you received any notification from the Chairman of the Board of A&T?

Chairman Nappi asked is that a question or do you have anymore comments on that? It's a public portion; are there any other testimonies you're going to give us concerning the Board? Mr. Crawford responded no.

Chairman Nappi continued the letter went out to the Chairman of the Board which is Christopher Besecheck and to this date we haven't had any response. The responsibility is of the Chairman of the Board to relay this information to his/her Commission to make that available. In addition, we did post on our website the schedule of both meetings and workshop that this Commission will be holding and anyone is free to appear before us to give their opinion.

Mr. Crawford added, the only other thing has to do with the bidding process and I have taken it upon myself to check other local municipalities and to ask questions of their departments. I have gotten a letter from other municipalities but before I present any information to this Board I feel it is my responsibility to present it to my full Board to have them decide if they want to advise on how to approach this Commission here. That's why I asked you if you have received any letter. Chairman Nappi responded none to date. You can have an official representation of that Board appear or you can speak as an individual with your own opinions and expression to us. So, a Board or Commission in town feels they don't want to endorse your particular concept; it does not prohibit you from speaking as a citizen of Shelton in your experience what you would like this Commission to study and consider. I just want to clarify that, it's the right route to present it to your Board first, but you're free to present anything to us as a citizen.

Mr. Crawford continued, that is why I had asked if the Chairman had received any correspondence from my board. I feel that you should have by now. Serving on the Finance Committee of the Board of A&T, it has been an issue that is bothered me for a number of years and I would like to see if we can go and have this body change the bidding process to show that if a local merchant or company wishes to bid on a proposed project, the Board of Aldermen could have the final say. If I presented to you a final bid of \$110 and yet I have a company who is here in the City of Shelton paying taxes to the City of Shelton, with an amount of \$120, we have to go by the lowest bidder, I feel that the Board of Aldermen can go to that person, can you complete that project for that \$110. They would have to make the ruling on the percentage wise as how much low they are willing to go.

Commissioner Winnick asked are you suggesting that a local taxpayer who bids should be given a preference under the Charter. Mr. Crawford responded yes. Commissioner Lopera stated I thought it was a last look as opposed to a preference. If you're giving someone a chance to come down to the lowest bid, it's a last look. Chairman Nappi stated if you have this, if you'd like to send us something that outlines this little more specific we would be glad to look at it. Whatever you feel that the Charter Commission should look at please submit it to the clerk and she will

forward it to all the members. There is a mailbox in the Mayor's office for the Charter Revision Commission.

There were 2 correspondences that were received by this Commission. One was from Ron Herrick, the Director of Parks and Recreation and the other was from Elspeth Lydon, Director of Plumb Memorial Library.

(correspondence attached)

Print

<http://us.mg205.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?partner=sbc&.rand=fleupg...>

Subject: charter
From: Ron Herrick (r.herrick@cityofshelton.org)
To: oopsb@sbcglobal.net;
Date: Monday, April 2, 2012 4:09 PM

Sophia,

As for changes in charter, I would hope the commission would look at upping the limits needed to secure quotes and bids from vendors. In todays day and age many items we purchase total above the \$1000 threshold and we spend quite a bit of time securing quotes. This also goes for the bidding process which is set at \$5000. I know parks and rec. along with building maintenance have requested this in the past. Twenty or so years ago these figures were very much in line, but with current costs I feel these numbers could be increased by \$500 and \$1000 each.

Thank you for your considerations.

Ron Herrick
Director
Parks and Recreation



Library Board of Directors

Barbara W. Glover, chair
 Jean Cayer Joan Feeley
 Harriet Finn Shirley Keller
 Aleta Miner

April 19, 2012

Sophia Belade
Charter Revision Commission

The Library Board of Plumb Memorial Library, at their regular meeting on April 10, 2012, reviewed the current Charter for the City of Shelton. The members concluded they do not want any changes made to the section referring to the Library and are satisfied with the text the way it reads currently.

I sent this as an email but the email was returned so am providing written version. Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this information to the current Charter Revision Commission members on behalf of the Library Board. If there are any questions, please contact me by email (elydon@biblio.org) or library phone (203-924-1580).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Elspeth', is written in black ink.

Elspeth Lydon, Director
Plumb Memorial Library
Shelton Library System

Elspeth Lydon Director
 Plumb Memorial Library
 65 Wooster Street
 Shelton, CT 06484
 Phone 203 924-1580
 Fax 203 924-8422

www.sheltonlibrarysystem.org

Shawn Fields, Branch Director
 Huntington Branch Library
 in the Community Center
 41 Church Street
 Phone 203 926-0111
 Fax 203 926-0181

DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 1994 CHARTER

Attorney Bellis to review State Statutes for minority representation for Board of Education, Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning & Zoning

The Commission started reading and suggested changes. Sections for review were as follows:

5.1.3. Library Board

-check verbiage for standardizing. Need interpretation and clarification regarding trust fund. Additional discussion needed.

5.1.4. Planning & Zoning Commission

-Attorney Bellis to check State Statute

5.2. Appointed by the Mayor

-discussion needed on verbiage and what is accomplished prior to notification

Commissioner Winnick provided this as a substitution for discussion for section 5.2.:

- “In connection with all persons selected by the Mayor to an appointed position, the Mayor shall notify the Clerk of the Board of Aldermen, in writing, of his/her selection at least fifteen (15) days prior to making the appointment.”

Commissioner Lapera suggested this for discussion:

- “With respect to all persons he/she intends to appoint within fifteen (15) days prior to days of appointment.”

5.2.1. Parks & Recreation

-verbiage used and look at # of members. Possible discussion to take place with Director of Parks & Recreation

5.2.2. Board of Zoning Appeals

-Attorney Bellis to check State Statute regarding # alternate members

5.2.3. Conservation Commission

-check on funds

5.2.4. Economic Development Commission

-Attorney Bellis to check State Statute

5.2.5 Inland Wetlands Commission

-review last paragraph and possibly insert on all other Commission that are appointed by the Mayor

5.3.1. Board of Tax Review

-possibly add verbiage or refer to General Provisions section 5.5

5.3.3. Public Employee

- possibly change amount of day from 10 to 20 to verify if enough time to appeal

5.3.5. Board of Ethics

-full Board needed to discuss

5.5. General Provisions

-(c) open for discussion

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Winnick moved to adjourn. Commissioner Miko seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chairman Nappi adjourned the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

The next meeting of the Charter Revision Commission is scheduled as a Workshop for Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia V. Belade

Sophia V. Belade
Charter Revision Clerk

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