

Charter Review Commission

Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Webex

April 28, 2020

Charter Review Commission Members Participating in Webex Meeting: Richard Butler, Judith Center, James Howard, Deeba Jafri, Stu Kohn, Fred Leong, Margaret Ann Nolan, Dawn Popp, Paul Skalny, Yolanda Sonnier (Chairperson), Carolan Stansky, and James Walsh

Staff Participating in Webex Meeting: Lynne Rosen, Legislative Analyst, Gary Kuc, County Solicitor, Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the County Executive

Ms. Sonnier opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

Ms. Popp made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting. Mr. Skalny seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Ms. Sonnier discussed that the members will discuss and approve the Final Report. Ms. Sonnier discussed that she has made the three suggested revisions to the report that she received. Ms. Sonnier reviewed those changes on the Track Changes Final Report document.

Mr. Kuc discussed if any clarification to accurately reflect the intention of the Commission was needed to the following sentence in the first paragraph of Recommendation No. 7 on page 12 of the Final Report: "The Commission recommends that the Board of Appeals, by Charter, shall become the appellate body for any zoning appeal under Maryland's "change or mistake" provision or for an appeal of any development plan. Other zoning decisions would be left to the County Council."

The members discussed how to clarify their intent.

Mr. Walsh discussed language to clarify how certain matters would first be heard and emailed the Commission members the following clarification: "Under recommendation #7, in the first paragraph, at the end of the second sentence (currently ending "or for any appeal of any development plan"), add a parenthetical explanation "(whether Council chooses by ordinance to vest original jurisdiction for such matter with the Hearing Examiner or the Board of Appeals)"."

Ms. Sonnier discussed that the next topic that Mr. Kuc wants to review is on page 14 of the Final Report.

Mr. Kuc discussed that the issue is in the fourth line from the top of page 14 and requests clarification of what the Commission means in this language. The word "map" is struck.

Ms. Sonnier discussed that it looks like “zoning” should also have been crossed out with the result being “COMPREHENSIVE REZONING”.

The members discussed that “zoning” should also be stricken.

Ms. Sonnier asked if there are any other changes besides the strike through of “zoning” and clarifying language that Mr. Walsh is sending. Is there any other discussion for changes in the report?

Ms. Stansky discussed a suggested change to Advisory Note 1 on page 16 of the report: “The Howard County government should formally include the projected revenue for all years covered by the multi-year capital improvement plan budget.”.

Ms. Sonnier asked Ms. Stansky to email the suggested language.

Mr. Kuc reviewed the language relating to the jurisdiction of the Board of Appeals in the fourth line from the top on page 14 of the report.

The members discussed the language and concluded that no changes were needed.

Ms. Sonnier asked if there any other changes to the report.

The members did not have any other changes to the report.

Ms. Nolan made a motion to approve the report.

Mr. Howard seconded the motion.

The members voted in favor of approving the report.

Ms. Sonnier discussed that she will make the final changes to the report with the language emailed by Mr. Walsh and Ms. Stansky.

The members thanked Ms. Sonnier for her leadership.

Ms. Stansky discussed what are the next steps after the Council receives the report. Ms. Stansky discussed that the Councilmembers would have to adopt a resolution for any change to be made to the Charter. There would be a hearing on any resolution that is introduced. Ms. Stansky asked what the appropriate role for the Commission members is.

Mr. Kuc and Ms. Sonnier discussed if a resolution to amend the Charter is introduced, the usual legislative process would proceed.

Ms. Hussain joined the Webex meeting at 9:19 a.m.

Ms. Sonnier asked Ms. Rosen to keep the members informed regarding any actions taken by the Council relating to the report.

Ms. Sonnier adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.