

Howard County Charter Review Commission

APPROVED MINUTES

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2011

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: CVG Conference Room

Council Members in attendance:

Donna Richardson

Michael Davis

Sharon Ahn

Cindy Ardinger

Regina Clay

Thomas Coale

Edward Cochran

Charles Feaga

Alice Giles

Yvonne Howard

Steve Hunt

Sang Oh

Andrew Stack

Joshua Tzucker

James Walsh

- Donna Richardson opened meeting
 - Introduced Michael Davis as Vice Chair
- Council Chairperson Ball thanked members for agreeing to serve
- Introductions of Commission members
- Donna Richardson asked if time of meeting worked for everyone
 - Steve Hunt suggested 9:00
 - Agreed to begin subsequent meetings at 9:00 a.m.
- Meredith Beach summarized administrative issues
 - Email for public comments
 - Requested updated contact information for everyone
 - Website
 - Members asked that audio recordings of meetings be included on the website
 - Packets include resolution appointing commission, charters from other counties and report of last commission
 - Information can be handed out in hard copy or provided in electronic copy or a combination of the two options.
 - Reviewed what other commissions have done including need to have public hearing
- Jim Vannoy reviewed obligations of the Commission
 - Public record must be maintained; reminded members to copy all email regarding Charter Review Commission to the commission's email address.
 - Reviewed public information act and maintaining a public record of information

- Reviewed limitations of charter amendments- the Charter must address the form and function of the government; amendments cannot be legislation
- Michael Davis requested Jim provide details on previous amendments to the Charter
- Donna Richardson asked for input from other members
 - One afternoon and one evening public hearing to be set at later time
 - Regina Clay recommended having three public hearings: west, east, and central; the central could be near public transit and include Laurel & Savage areas
 - Asked that staff look into possible locations
 - Members requested Donna Richardson send letters to elected officials and department heads inviting them to provide recommendations, send letter to newspapers inviting public to speak, central committees
 - Requested staff research previous commission rules of procedure
 - Charlie Feaga and Mike Davis reviewed what previous commissions did regarding amendments
 - Commission members set meetings to be approximately every two weeks
 - Set dates:
 - May 5
 - May 19
 - June 2
 - June 23
 - July 14
 - July 28
 - Aug 11
 - Aug 25
 - Ed Cochran asked for first Charter from 1968 and Article 25A of the Maryland Constitution be made available
- Members agreed to review Articles I and II for the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.