

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
February 9, 2009
City Conference Room 5A

Present:

City Council

Al French – Chair
Michael Allen

Administration:

Leroy Eadie
Ted Danek

Citizens

Dr. Joseph Albert
Sherrie Bryant
Greg Sweeney

Staff:

Karen Corkins
Mike Piccolo
Todd Babcock

Visitors:

Carrie Anderson

Absent:

Administration:

Dorothy Webster

Citizens:

Hal Ellis – CA
Mike Dalessi

Staff:

City Council:

Steve Corker

There was a motion to approve the January 26, 2009 meeting minutes. They were approved unanimously.

Chairman French discussed his upcoming Council Connections spot and told the group he would like to take 15 minutes to educate the public on the upcoming Charter Amendments. Mike Piccolo and Michael Allen will join him on the program.

It was also discussed that members from the committee need to have a meeting with the editorial boards for the *Spokesman-Review*, *The Inlander* and *The Journal of Business*. Chairman French and Councilman Allen will be the contact people for this.

Ms. Anderson spoke with Chairman French and gave him some handouts that contained some changes to the Charter that she wanted the committee to consider. He passed the handouts out to the members and invited her back to the next meeting. The committee decided to review the documents and consider if it's in the committee's scope to address the issues she is bringing up. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

The question was raised about how suggestions from the public will be vetted through this group. Discussion followed. It was decided that there are two ways to get feedback from the public. The first is that a citizen can submit topics in writing to the committee. The committee will decide if the issues submitted are within the committee's scope. If so, the committee will address them. If not, then the citizen will be educated on their

options. The other path will be for citizens to bring their concerns or issues to the public hearings that will be held before the major housekeeping topics are put on the ballot.

The committee decided to add a “status” column to the spreadsheet.

Next, the committee began to work on the “2008 Major Revisions” document. Mr. Piccolo reminded the group that cities can be more restrictive than the state.

The following are the decisions made by the group:

1. Section 3 – accept proposed change
2. “Residency” – Mr. Piccolo will come back to the group with the Federal wording on residency
3. Pg 1 – last underlined sentence – add “consecutive” before “term”
4. Change “elector” to qualified voter
5. Divide Section 7 into two parts; Mayor’s Salary and Council Salary
 - This was due to the Salary Review Board can only adjust the Council’s salary and not the Mayor’s.
 - A great deal of discussion occurred around whether or not to put wording into the Charter that allows the Mayor and Council Members to refuse to take their salary or a portion of it. There was discussion about this topic being politicized. The topic of setting up a foundation was also discussed. This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Important dates:

Feb. 23 – Next meeting at 11:00am in Conference room 5A

- Make a decision on how to proceed with handouts given to group by Ms. Anderson