



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Charter Review Committee

Councillor Winslow, Chair
Councillor Linehan, Vice Chair
Councillor Spadafora
Carol Ann Desiderio, Ex-Officio
Ron Hogan, Ex-Officio

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room #105
215 Pleasant Street

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Stephen Winslow, Amanda Linehan, Craig Spadafora and Ron Hogan

Absent: 1 - Carol Ann Desiderio

Minutes to be Approved

Business

[418-24](#)

Communication: The Mayor's Office and Council President request that the Charter Review Committee meet to review a proposal to draft a Home Rule petition to modify the City Charter and develop City Ordinance amendments necessary to: (1) remove certain City Charter language concerning the Public Works and Stadium Commissions and enact an ordinance establishing a Parks and Recreation Commission, (2) remove City Charter language establishing the Public Works Commission and Public Works and Engineering Departments and enact an ordinance establishing authorities and responsibilities for such Commission and Departments, (3) remove City Charter language concerning the Police and Fire Departments and enact an ordinance establishing authorities and responsibilities for such Departments, and (4) to remove City Charter language regarding the Traffic Commission and to establish a Transportation Commission by ordinance.

Attachments: [2024CharterFocusedChanges](#)

[Home Rule Petition Amendment Draft 1.2025 - Repeal of sections 16, 20, 21, 23A, C, D](#)

[Public Comment Charter & Ordinance Changes 418-24 443-24](#)

[Charter Change Public Hearing Notice](#)

[Home Rule Petition Amendment April 9 edits](#)

[Home Rule Petition Companion Letter](#)

Councillor Winslow said in the Springtime this committee was meeting to basically do a whole new Charter based on more recent Charter updates where most Commissions and Department Heads would be under an Administrative Order and have the Charter be related to elections and a few positions. This would reassign positions overseen by the City Council to the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office reached out to him to focus on most outdated parts of the Charter and streamline Boards and Commissions. The intent is to do some substantial updates but not a whole update of the Charter.

Ron Hogan gave the committee a handout (see attached) and gave an overview and will go over one section at a time. The concept behind the first phase is to take a lot of things out of the Charter that don't belong in there but recreating it within City Ordinances and also cleaning up section that haven't been touched in years. They have broken it down in sections to test this approach and find some common ground. He has laid it out with what they are trying to accomplish and introduce the new language that might sit within the ordinances with the new language in the Charter. The sections are as follows:

Parks and Recreation:

The proposal is to remove the language that speaks to any role that speaks to Parks and Recreation and remove the entirety of the Stadium Commission and replace it with new language in City Ordinances relative to the formation and the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Councillor Spadafora mentioned he would like to speak with members of the Stadium Commission and see how they feel

Councillor McDonald is in support of the changes but feels the Parks & Rec Commission is important but we need a holistic view to the portfolios we have now. Also, as Chair of the Public Property looking at public land and who overlooks that. Councillor McDonald asked why Public Facilities and Engineering is not added into this area and stated for the record endorsing pulling out those issues out from the charter since these things already exist.

Ron agreed they belong out of the Charter but trying to decide how much we want to bite off at this time is a matter of keeping it digestible chunks now.

Public Works Department, Public Works Commission and Engineering:

The proposal would be to take out from the Charter any language relative to the creation formation of the Engineering and Public Works Dept. and we expand the language and send the ordinances to make it clear that the appointment of the Director and responsibilities all stand on their own within the ordinances and pull out the Public Works Commission and update the section 2.16.12 that holds over the responsibilities we want to. It doesn't change the make-up of the body it just pulls them within City Ordinances.

Police & Fire Department:

The proposal would be to update language relative to the organization and administration pull it out of the Charter and add it into the Ordinances. Still maintain the value of the Police Commissioner role but redefine it with the Chief's Role as Chief Executive to the Department and the Commissioner playing the civilian support role with the Chief which would be the same for the Fire Department.

Transportation Commission:

The proposal would be to modernize the language relative to the policy making. Removing the language of the 50's and replace it with modernized language within City Ordinances consistent with Boards and Commissions. Transportation would be a new commission replacing the Traffic Commission which is a modified form of what we have and will give more flexibility.

Councillor Winslow said the recommendation tonight would be tabling this paper giving people time to digest this information. He feels they have has a good meeting tonight but rather than rushing it having a meeting next week to move forward.

A motion was made by Councillor Linehan, seconded by Councillor Spadafora, that the Communication be tabled till next week. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Other Business

Tabled Papers

26-23

The Charter Review Committee will meet to discuss long-term planning and continue to work on reviewing the MALDEN Charter.

Attachments: [Hogan Handout Charter Review Committee 11023](#)

[Charter Review Handout 41823](#)

[Draft Charter SPW Version 5.16.2023](#)

[Malden Draft Admin Ordinance Apr 23 v1](#)

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councillor Linehan, seconded by Councillor Spadafora, that this be adjourned at 6:54 PM. The motion carried unanimously.