

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 27, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Cathleen Simpson, Chair; George Estrada, Vice-Chair; Florisca Carter, Secretary; Ruben Felipe, William Marshall, Charles Valentino

OTHER: Attorney Mednick; Attorney Maley

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Simpson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve at this time. Commissioner Simpson stated that the meeting with the library would happen on Tuesday night.

**UP-DATE AND PRESENTATION BY COUNCIL REGARDING CHARTER
REVISION PROGRESS, MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES AND SCHEDULE**

Commissioner Simpson said that they had received copies of the revised charter and that it was, currently, a rough draft. The commission will begin reviewing this document with the attorneys. Attorney Mednick was present to review the changes for the commission. He stated that the current charter had been restructured for the rough draft. Attorney Mednick listed the following divisions for the chapters,

- There is a definitions section
- Chapter 2: General Incorporation and General Powers
- Chapter 3: Consolidation of various terms throughout the document dealing with election procedures.
- Chapter 4: Consolidation of the powers of the law-office of the Mayor and emergency powers.
- Chapter 5: City Council
- Chapter 6: Other Elected Officials.
- Chapter 7: Boards and Commissions.
- Chapter 8: City Government, Departments, and Department heads.
- Chapter 9: Budget and Fiscal controls.
- Chapter 10: Bonding
- Chapter 11: Pensions
- Chapter 12: Special acts and historic provisions of the charter.

- Chapter 13: Transitional provisions.

Attorney Mednick went into detail about the changes within the various chapters of the revised charter. Discussion followed about these areas.

The discussion moved to the history and origin of libraries and their potential relationship with the revised charter. Attorney Maley said that he had done some research on the references to the origin of the Bridgeport library and had not found anything conclusive.

The Commission then discussed if the meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2012 should be held or if the members of the commission should spend the time reviewing the revised charter instead.

Commissioner Estrada reported on the most recent community outreach public hearing and said that a few people showed up and did not want to give their names or go onto the public record. Commissioner Estrada said that he and Commissioner Felipe had started announcements on the local radio stations last Monday and had done a program that lasted twenty minutes and tried to let people know to the best of their ability about the meetings. A brief discussion followed regarding the timing of the council phase of the process.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE GOVERNANCE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Commissioner Felipe said that he and Commissioner Weichsel had been talking about beginning to draft the educational governance section of the charter. In order to do this the commission needs to indicate what their consensus on the governance is. He asked if it was okay with the commission for them to go forward and starting to draft that portion of the charter.

**** COMMISSIONER FELIPE MOVED THAT THE MEETING FOR MARCH 29TH BE CANCELED AND THE COMMISSION RECONVENE ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY, APRIL 3RD.**

**** COMMISSIONER VALENTINO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The discussion then moved to board member certification and what would be the best practices and training available. Attorney Maley pointed out that, while it was possible to make standards for the board as a whole, it was not possible to make individual standards. Further discussion followed. Commissioner Carter said that she felt it would be important to provide some type of stipulation so that the city residents in the future would be able to have a revision of how the mayoral appointed board is functioning. Further discussion followed. The committee members each expressed their views on why the current system needed to change.

**** COMMISSIONER VALENTINO MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY MEDNICK TO CREATE A DRAFT REGARDING A MAYORAL-APPOINTED BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**** COMMISSIONER CARTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Estrada reminded everyone that, on April 24th, 25th, and 26th he would not be able to attend the meetings. The discussion then moved to potentially meeting on a Saturday. Commissioner Felipe said that he would have trouble making Tuesday and Thursday meetings due to family schedule. After some discussion it was suggested that commissioners send any concerns to Attorney Mednick.

**** COMMISSIONER VALENTINO MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**** COMMISSIONER ESTRADA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services