

Meeting Minutes
Afton Charter Commission
May 15, 2008

PRESENT: John Barclay, Anthony Berg, Bonnie Blackley, Michael Frichol, Rock Gjermo, Kenn Kopitzke, Kathleen McGinn, and Patricia Snyder.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair McGinn called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: Snyder performed roll call.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gjermo moved to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Blackley. Motion passed (8-0).

4. TREASURER REPORT: No expenses were submitted. Barclay reported that in order to set up a checking account the bank or credit union requires a social security number or business I.D. number and discussion followed as to how to proceed. Barclay will check with the League of MN Cities and A. Berg will check with Judge Schurer as to the commission's entity status and look into the costs of incorporation. Discussion included submitting an invoice for operating expenses to the City, expected future costs and the nominal costs to date.

Kopitzke provided McGinn with a draft of a proposed introductory mailing, which she will edit and forward on to the commission for review. Snyder will look into the costs of a P.O. box and bulk mail permit. Frichol offered that he may be able to do the printing. Barclay offered to contact Mayor Welter with regard to using the city's bulk mail permit. This item will be on the agenda for the May 29th meeting so that it can go out to the community in June.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Distribute web site inquiries and responses – Frichol reported that the website is up and the email contact is working as of today.

B. Review Draft of Initiative and Referendum sections of Charter – A. Berg submitted proposed drafts of "initiative" and "referendum" which was adapted from the city of Minnetonka's charter. Discussion followed to include time limits, percentages, majority/super majority vote requirements, emergency ordinances, case law pertaining to legislative and administrative law, state guidelines concerning assessments, preparation of the appendices, wording on special elections and definitions. It was decided to add wording on zoning and delete the term "land use", either within the document or up on the website; and to delete the last sentence in Section 5.09(d) on Initiative concerning the collection of signatures. It was also agreed to delete the bracketed portion of the last sentence of Paragraph 1 and Section 6.09(d) on Referendum.

Members agreed that transparency is key to the charter's adoption and operation. Frichol suggested posting the current working draft on the website to encourage community input throughout the process.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Draft Recall section of Charter - A draft and email response by Jon Kingstad was briefly discussed pursuant to a request by McGinn for clarification on recall. It was agreed that "misfeasance" shall be deleted from the draft and wording on conviction of a crime shall be added from Sec. 4-20 of the League of MN Cities Home Rule Charter. Blackley will research current Afton ordinance language concerning city council appointments in the event of a vacancy and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

B. Draft Budget and Bonding sections of Charter – Continued to next meeting.

C. Discuss informational mailing to Afton population – Discussed above under Treasurer's Report.

D. Discuss instituting public comment portion of meeting – Continued to next meeting.

7. WRAP UP:

A. Next meeting – 7:00 Thursday, May 29, 2008 at St. Peter's.

B. Agenda items – Discussion on Recall, Budget and Bonding.

C. Assignments –

8. ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn by McGinn. Seconded by Snyder. Motion passed (8-0). Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

SUBMISSIONS:

- Jon Kingstad's response to questions submitted by McGinn concerning a revision of the draft charter he provided
- Proposed draft, Chapter 5 – Initiative by A. Berg
- Proposed draft, Chapter 6 – Referendum by A. Berg

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Snyder, Secretary