

091028Minutes

Charter Commission, Oct 28th, 2009 at Courthouse

Members Present: Claude Morgan, (co-chair), Lisa Villa (co-chair), David Lunt, Steve Gorden, Neil Jamieson, John Eder, Kathleen Babeu, Dick Feeney

Members absent: Meredith Burgess

Others present: Peter Crichton, Elizabeth Trice

Notes:

\*\*Motion to approve all minutes up to this date. Unanimous.

Business cards will be ready soon. Courthouse will be physical address, home phone numbers (or whichever phone number was given for contact purposes) will be used.

Group has membership with Contact Contact, already have loaded in 800 contacts. Will wait until after election to start sending emails.

Motion to approve current draft for public review and comment (Gorden, Lunt)

Amendment: contingent upon acceptance by legal counsel (Jamieson, Villa) Unanimous.

Original motion passes with amendment unanimously.

Gorden: last meeting there weren't enough people to make a quorum, and some people had traveled some distance.

Motion: change to attendance policy:

1. Presently, the Charter Commission procedure calls for a member's activity to be called into question after two consecutive absences. It requires the member's name to publicly be brought forth and a formal vote of the majority to maintain the violating member's position on the Commission.

Proposed change:

- a. Allow for absences when prior notification of non-attendance is received.
- b. Have the "absent of record" only occur when the formal monthly meeting was missed.

2. In addition, the Commissioners should take note that the public part of the Charter promotion process is about to be instituted (within 1 to 2 months); this may require 2 to 7 hours of supplementary participation per week.

Discussion: Commissioner presence at meetings is abysmal; even with the attendance rule modifications the CCCC cannot obtain a quorum. The CCCC cancelled the last meeting due to lack of perceived interest as there were neither enough members to open the meeting nor any communicated excuses expressed. If a locally elected or appointed member cannot fully participate, then it is suggested they tender their resignation and/or withdraw from the Commission.

Jamieson: Wednesday nights are difficult

Babeu: maybe we can try something different

Lunt: except for the first week of the month, is very flexible

Villa: can't do Thursdays

Villa: has selectmen's meetings first and third Tuesdays, and often flies Mondays and Tuesdays

Could do earlier on Tuesdays. Could do 4-6.

\*\*New Meeting Time - Third Tuesday 4-5:30. November 17th

\*\*All approve Gorden's motion to change attendance policy.

Public Outreach:

Feeney: is arranging for presentation to South Portland and Scarborough councils.

Morgan: believes that 3 or more commission members can attend other public meetings without problems.

Gorden: county has budget meetings set up around the county. Commission members could attend those.

Feeney: there needs to be clarification that this is a county - not city- charter, and that it is new, not a revision of the existing charter.

\*Eder will set up google calendar.

\*Eder will get drafts printed.

Jamieson: suggests doing a small focus group before going out to general public.

\*All- get names for focus group to Jamieson by Friday.

Villa: maybe we could do presentation when GPCOG has a group meeting

Villa: we can go on the road as a group to towns that are service centers

\* Eder will compile FAQ page / 1 page bullet points with major changes

Brochure could have FAQs

\*How many hits has website had?

\*Trice will work with Eder (aesthetics & content) and Gorden (administrative, mailing list) to develop draft Constant Contact introductory email & list

\*Eder is creating list of school or other ways to contact children. People with ideas should send them to Eder.

By next meeting we should have feedback from legal counsel, focus group, will have reviewed Kathleen's letter.

All members should submit potential focus group members to Jamieson, FAQs to Eder, and come with a list of potential groups to speak in front of and meeting dates.

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