

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Minutes – Meeting # 13
February 28, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.
Virtual

The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy
Andrea Mansfield
David Kauffman
Larry Telford
Ashley Hangliter
Thomas Fleckenstein

Torrey Snow was absent.

Also present were:

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council
Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law
Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs
Pete Hill, Equity, Diversion, Inclusion Director
Asha Smith, Human Relations Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and explained the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waddy asked for clarification to be added regarding the vacancies for the School Board and Ms. Klasmeier's response. On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Telford, the minutes of February 14, 2022 were approved.

CHARTER MATTERS

Ms. Mansfield gave a review of the Articles to be discussed.

Mr. Waddy requested an analysis of the charter section and asked whether or not the impact of the provisions have racial equity across the county or if they receive the same amount of scrutiny under the Executive Branch. He also asked if there were charter provisions that need to be changed to make employee's jobs easier, and shared his desire for boards and commissions to be paid.

Mr. Baron responded to future boards and commissions being included in the Charter and what that would entail.

Mr. Hill shared his regret of not having enough time to complete a proper analysis. He asked for data, specificity, and time from the Commission in order to give the best information.

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Mr. Waddy offered his thanks.

Ms. Mansfield stated there will need to be a discussion regarding the timeline for the analysis. She suggested that Mr. Waddy share his requests with Ms. Corby to help figure out what is needed and how long it will take to complete.

Ms. Corby gave a review of Article IV and Article V of the County Charter.

Mr. Waddy asked if there were any historical perspectives on Resolution No. 34-92 concerning the reorganization of responsibilities.

Ms. Klasmeier responded and spoke on the Department of Education, Library, Social Services, and Health Department.

Mr. Waddy asked if there were any requirements for funding regarding the different departments in terms of population or usage.

Mr. Baron answered.

Mr. Fleckenstein asked if there was a discussion to have an advisory board for the Department of Social Services.

Ms. Klasmeier stated she was not aware of that discussion.

Mr. Waddy asked about gender parity for the Recreation Advisory Board and if gender parity is allowed in the Charter.

Mr. Baron responded to the Recreation Advisory Board question.

Ms. Mansfield shared her view of adding it to the Charter.

Mr. Waddy added that paying citizens to be on boards and commissions may help with gender parity.

Mr. Fleckenstein asked how advisory board appointments are made.

Mr. Baron gave a general explanation.

Ms. Klasmeier spoke on specificity.

Ms. Corby explained the boards already in the Charter and who appoints the members.

Mr. Kauffman suggested researching what is already in place before changing the appointment process, and that diversity should be looked at in every aspect of the Charter, not just the boards and commissions.

Ms. Mansfield agreed.

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Mr. Waddy asked for clarification as to why the County Executive and County Council have authority over certain boards and commissions.

Ms. Klasmeier explained how the boards and commissions were created.

Mr. Kauffman expressed his desire for Ms. Smith to work on the equal opportunity and human relations part of the Charter.

Mr. Waddy shared his desire to add equal opportunity to every board and commission.

Ms. Mansfield requested that the subject be added to the list for more information. She asked if Mr. Hill and Ms. Smith's positions should be added to the Charter.

Mr. Baron explained the positions.

Ms. Mansfield asked the Commission if the positions should be formalized into the Charter during this review.

Mr. Waddy and Mr. Fleckenstein agreed.

Mr. Telford shared his reluctance to adding the positions to the Charter and asked for more information as to why they should be added.

Ms. Mansfield agreed to further discussion.

Mr. Baron spoke on the balance between putting items in the Charter versus how much to leave in the Code.

Mr. Waddy explained that Ms. Smith and Mr. Hill have the expertise in diversity and he spoke on compensation for the board and commission members.

Mr. Telford asked if there were non-profits working outside of the County and if they could be privatized with the Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier responded.

Ms. Corby gave a review of Article VI of the Charter.

Mr. Kauffman asked about the Human Relations Commission being in the Charter.

Ms. Corby and Ms. Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Baron explained the history of the Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Kauffman asked if now is the time to apply a Charter amendment for the Human Relations Commission Code language or if there is a reason why the language should not be in the Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Kauffman suggested putting the language into the Charter.

Mr. Baron spoke on adding the student voter.

Ms. Corby explained the Veterans Affairs Commission and the difference in timeframe to change the Code versus the Charter.

Mr. Waddy asked if there would be inclusion of the entire language each time something is added to the Charter.

Mr. Kauffman explained why that would not happen.

Mr. Waddy gave an example on how flexibility in the Charter would help.

Ms. Mansfield shared her concern to adding specifics to the Charter.

Mr. Waddy suggested reviewing other commissions.

Ms. Mansfield questioned if the needed language was already in the Code.

Ms. Hanglitter expressed her views of where the specifics should be.

Mr. Kauffman spoke on how the departments had not asked the Commission to make changes to the language and that this would be a monumental task if the Commission takes it on.

Mr. Telford asked if there were any public testimony for the three articles.

Ms. Mansfield stated there were none.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Mansfield asked about the items Ms. Klasmeier was researching.

Ms. Klasmeier stated she would have them ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Kauffman spoke on when future Charter Revision Commissions should begin working and suggested May 1st as the member's appointment date.

Ms. Klasmeier agreed and gave information on the census and timing.

Mr. Fleckenstein shared his agreement to having the Commission appointed earlier in the year.

Mr. Waddy shared he was in favor of changing the start date of the Commission.

Mr. Telford suggested splitting the Commission into two groups, one for redistricting, and

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another for reviewing the Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier recommended starting the Commission earlier in the year to work on the Charter before the census comes out. She reminded the Commission that the Council takes the month of August off.

Mr. Kauffman agreed and asked what the best time during the year was for the Council to review the applicants.

Ms. Mansfield asked which jurisdictions in the state use two commissions.

Ms. Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Waddy gave his opinion of how the Council sees the Commission.

Mr. Kauffman shared his view on having two commissions.

Ms. Mansfield clarified what will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Klasmeier agreed.

Ms. Mansfield spoke on changing the deadline from March 31st to June 1st.

There was discussion regarding the best date to have the deadline.

On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the Commission will draft a letter to the Council asking for the deadline to be moved from March 31st to June 1st.

Ms. Mansfield gave her view on having in person meetings.

Mr. Kauffman suggested having alternate in person meetings and virtual meetings.

Mr. Fleckenstein expressed his desire to have in person meetings, but was open to either option.

Mr. Waddy requested the meetings stay virtual.

Mr. Telford and Ms. Hanglitter shared their preference to do either alternate meetings or all virtual meetings.

Ms. Mansfield stated the Commission should do a hybrid of in person and virtual meetings.

Ms. Corby suggested doing the March 14th meeting virtually and March 28th in person.

The Commission agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Waddy, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anna Macaulay

Anna Macaulay
Reporter