

Record of Proceedings

VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK CHARTER COMMISSION

Minutes of the

January 31st, 2019

Commission Meeting

Council Chairwoman Conger called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

Roll: Commission Chairwoman Conger, Members Allison, Bell, Townsend, Wolf, Silverman-Star, Park-Curry, Walsh, Beeba, and Estes. Member Busick arrived at 6:43 pm.

Attending: Eric Fisher

Minutes:

- ❖ Member Wolf moved to approve the 1/17/19 meeting minutes, Member Townsend seconded, all in favor.
- ❖ Member Wolf moved to approve the 1/21/19 meeting minutes, Member Beeba seconded, all in favor, with Commission Chair Conger and Member Braskett in abstention.

Old Business:

- ❖ Chairwoman Conger explained that the Rule and Regulations provided by Bricker & Eckler have been posted on the Commission OneDrive and are available for review.
- ❖ Members Park-Curry and Beeba requested an overview of the OneDrive so as to better locate relevant files and folders. The Commission resolved to reorganize the OneDrive to make the files easier to search.
- ❖ Chairwoman Conger has yet to receive an updated MP Village Organization chart from Mayor Eisentrout.
- ❖ Member Estes presented the final version of the Council/MP Employee questionnaire, explaining she had distributed it to all present Council Members at the most recent Council Meeting. She also distributed a copy to Richard Busick at the Commission meeting. The remaining questionnaires will be distributed by Member Estes and other Commission volunteers. Completed questionnaires are to be returned no later than 2/11/2019. Member Braskett raised questions concerning former Council Members who may have special needs with regards to reading and completing the form. The online form can be magnified, and larger print versions can be created. Member Estes also volunteered to give interviews should it be requested.
- ❖ There is now a link to the Charter Commission Site on the MP Village Website.
- ❖ Chairwoman Conger has visited the Church where the Village Informational Meeting will be held on 2/9/19, and believes it will provide ample seating and parking.
- ❖ Member Park-Curry explained that she and Member Silverman-Star had completed the fliers regarding the Informational Meeting, and they were ready for distribution.
- ❖ Member Wolf reminded the Commission that, since this flier is a public notice, Commission volunteers must take pains not to miss any houses. Fliers would be distributed after the meeting. Commission Vice-Chair Parks was volunteered, in absentia, to distribute fliers on Wildwood.

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Old Business (continued):

- ❖ Eric Fisher informed the Commission that Rod Davidson will be attending the 2/7/19 meeting to discuss his experiences with the benefits, important aspects, and potential pitfalls of the Charter process.
- ❖ Member Beeba plans to call Johnstown to enquire as to salient points of the charter process. She has also spoken with the Mayor of Mount Vernon, which recently failed to pass a ballot measure to authorize the drafting of a Charter.
- ❖ Member Park-Curry spoke to Grove City having an "Administrative Assistant," wondering what role this individual filled as opposed to a City Administrator.
- ❖ Member Silverman-Star offered to speak with Canal Winchester, which had passed a charter relatively recently (seven years ago), and has a Council-Mayor structure.
- ❖ Member Townsend enquired how, apart from the fliers, would the Commission make the people of MP aware of the Public Informational Meeting. He suggested putting up a sign at the entrances of the Village. Member Wolf asked Eric Fisher if he could make sure the meeting time and date was posted outside the Community Building and on the Playground.

New Items

- ❖ Chairwoman Conger and Members Wolf and Estes have completed the PowerPoint presentation for the 2/9 informational meeting. The commission reviewed the slides with an eye toward readability and ease of explanation. Chairwoman Conger thanked Sunbury for providing the framework for the presentation.
- ❖ The Commission discussed the Strong/Weak Mayor systems, and how best to: 1) Explain them to Minerva Park Citizens, and; 2) Relate them to the current MP system of government. Member Harker pointed out that the current MP government seems to possess neither strong nor weak mayoral powers. Statutorily, Ohio Municipalities are constructed along the lines of a Weak Mayor-Council structure, but, over the course of many administrations, MP has evolved a patchwork of strong *and* weak executive and council powers, which has led to confusion and tangled lines of authority. It is this friction that is one of the things the MP Charter is seeking to resolve.
- ❖ Member Walsh posed the question as to how a charter was substantively better than the current Minerva Park Village government. Member Wolf replied that, personally, he felt it would address a number of disconnects in the current government, namely: the bid limit, and the hiring of a village administrator.
- ❖ Member Park-Curry spoke to the flexibility of a Charter. The Charter could address where public notices are posted--allowing them to be put online, for instance.

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New Business (continued):

- ❖ Member Busick asked where the lines of authority would fall in times of governmental crisis--especially as pertains to the Council-Mayor, Council-Manager forms. Member Estes replied that while a Mayor cannot be removed (being an elected official), a City Manager can be removed or put on a performance improvement plan. In a worst-case scenario, a Council-Mayor form of government can lead to power struggles between the various organs of government, whereas in a Council-Administrator form the Council has the strategic authority and the Manager is responsible for tactical decisions.
- ❖ Member Silverman-Star spoke to the qualities of a Mayor-Council, framing difficulties as stemming from disconnects in the *current* Minerva Park government, and not that power struggles are necessarily baked into the Mayor-Council cake. If the proper checks and balances put in place, it allows for an executive check on council, and vice-versa.
- ❖ Member Braskett asked about Council Salaries, specifically whether salaries might be higher if they were to be managing a City Administrator. Eric Fisher was asked to speak to this, and explained that the Charter can set the grounds for future council members to set just compensation for the manager with feedback from the elector.
- ❖ Members Busick and Silverman-Star raised concerns regarding the presentation being potentially biased toward a Council-Manager system. Chairwoman Conger resolved to send the PowerPoint to the Commission members for comment.
- ❖ Chairwoman Conger asked the Commission if any members would like to assist with the presentation. The format will be presentation/question.
- ❖ Member Silverman-Star spoke to difficulties arising from having multiple presenters. Member Estes added that, since Chairwoman Conger is the leader of this august body, she should lead the presentation.
- ❖ Member Walsh suggested it would be a good idea to have Bricker & Eckler legal council (who will be present) answer technical questions. The Commission agreed that this would be a good idea.
- ❖ Chairwoman Conger will invite B&E representatives to speak at the 2/7/19 meeting to answer any questions the Commission members may have.

Commission Rules

- ❖ The Members reviewed rules of order and procedure for Charter Commission meetings. The rules addressed public posting of meetings, executive session, emergency/special meetings of the Commission, quorum requirements, etc.
- ❖ Member Townsend asked if we were following Robert's Rules of Order, Chairwoman Conger replied that we were not.
- ❖ The Commission discussed meetings outside the regular schedule, how those meetings might be requested, and how notice might be posted. If three or more Commission Members request an additional meeting in writing (via mail or e-mail) Chairwoman Conger is required to convene a meeting.

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Closing and Discussion

- ❖ No citizen questions have been received.
- ❖ Chairwoman Conger advised the commission to review the B&E binder so as to be able to pose any resulting questions to Ms. Princehorn and Mr. Rutter at the 2/7/19 meeting.
- ❖ Chairwoman Conger moved to adjourn, Member Silverman-Star seconded. All in favor.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.