

Record of Proceedings

VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK DRAFTING SUB-COMMITTEE

Record of the

March 10th, 2019

Drafting Sub-Committee

Chairwoman Conger called the Sub-Committee meeting to order at 9:15am.

Roll: Chairwoman Conger, Vice-Chair Parks, Members Harker, Silverman-Star, Bell, Allison, Wolf, and Beeba. Member Lewis arrived at 9:37am.

Introduction:

- ❖ Chairwoman Conger reiterated that this was an informal meeting for the purposes of drafting *only*, and that neither formal votes nor decisions will be made. All drafting will be reviewed by the full Commission at its Thursday meetings.

Article IV - Section 1 (Legislative Procedure):

- ❖ Member Wolf explained there were two things he was interested in including in Article IV: 1) Specific delineation of what could bypass the three-readings rule (such as appointments of Village employees, contracts less than \$2K), and; 2) Specific delineation of what constitutes a matter requiring additional communication--such as Village infrastructure projects.
- ❖ Vice-Chair Parks agreed, explaining he would like an additional level of transparency in government--such as posting the agenda, or specific matters to be addressed.
- ❖ Member Beeba referred to the Dublin Charter, wherein it states that all citizens within 200ft of the affected area of an infrastructure project must be informed.
- ❖ Vice-Chair Parks advised the Subcommittee that it should be careful about legislating specific limits of Council because the Commission has decided on the Mayor-Council-Administrator form of government. Before setting the powers of Council it might be useful to set the powers and duties of the Mayor and Administrator so that there are clear lines of responsibility.
- ❖ Member Allison disagreed, explaining that, as a citizen, she would want specific notice of anything that affected her or her neighborhood.
- ❖ Member Wolf elaborated that the idea was to write in a clause that provided for such notice.
- ❖ Member Beeba called the Sub-Committee's attention to the Dublin Charter, which contains specific instances of outreach and availability.
- ❖ Vice-Chair Parks read a clause in the Dublin Charter that dealt with the public hearing of resolutions.
- ❖ Chairwoman Conger asked what sort of things wouldn't be covered by the provision? Member Wolf replied that the community development survey (which cost roughly \$15K), other legislation such as joining Franklin County's DUI task force, or the selling of Police vehicles, or changing the number of officers.
- ❖ Vice-Chair Parks asked if it might be useful to have a general rule that public hearings are required, then provide a list of exceptions.

Article IV - Section 1 (Legislative Procedure) - continued:

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- ❖ Member Bell asked if the would ever be an infrastructure project that wouldn't require a public hearing? Member Wolf replied that, in short: no--adding that he believes, that, with regards to infrastructure, it is incredibly important to involve the citizens in the decision-making process.
- ❖ Member Beeba explained that there are two kinds of public hearings: 1) General resolutions, and; 2) Large projects that require public input (such as the Golf Course sale). So it is important to define, exactly, what a public hearing is.
- ❖ Chairwoman Conger summed up the discussion--the Sub-Committee is in favor of a general provision for public notice with exceptions for specific situations.
- ❖ Member Beeba elaborated upon the Form of Action and Form of Legislation portions of the charter, which seem to be very similar between other charters the Commission has reviewed (such as Dublin, New Albany, Pataskala, and Groveport).
- ❖ Vice-Chair Parks spoke to wanting a requirement for all municipal ordinances to follow a specific format and structure, so as to make them easily readable.
- ❖ Member Beeba explained that the current Village Rules of Council do not provide for format of consistency, and that it should be addressed in the Charter--however, there should be provisions that allow for the Council to change the format if necessary. No one in the Sub-Committee raised an objection.

Article IV - Section 2 (Number of Readings):

- Vice-Chair Parks asked whether it would be useful to change the 3-reading requirement for ordinances and resolutions. The Sub-Committee felt this was standard across the State, and so a change was not necessary.
- Vice-Chair Parks asked that the Sub-Committee examine the situations in which the Council may waive the 3-readings rule, and the type of vote that would be required?
- Member Wolf spoke to the need to occasionally waive the 3-readings rule, but that the bar should be high, or that there should be some manner of communication or public statement regarding the waiving of readings.

Article V - Section 3 and 4 (Vote Requirements):

- The General Consensus of the Sub-Committee was that the bar for declaring an emergency or waiving reading requirements should be high--six votes.
- Member Beeba added that emergency legislation should be confined to public peace, health, and welfare, and should specifically state the emergency.

Article IV - Section 5 (Majorities):

- Chairwoman Conger if it was necessary to define a majority, and whether a Council member recusing themselves through conflict of interest will count toward a quorum.
- Vice-Chair Parks recounted that the Commission, as a whole, reached a consensus regarding majority votes and quorums at the 3/3/19 meeting. He then raised a question as to whether an abstention should default to "yes" or "no"?

Article IV - Section 5 (Majorities) - continued:

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- Member Silverman-Star spoke to the difficulties of deciding what constitutes a quorum or whether abstentions default.
- It was generally felt that this was an important issue and should be debated at a full Commission meeting.

Article IV - Section 6 (Public Meeting Requirements):

- It was the Sub-Committee's consensus that the requirements for public meeting had already been discussed by the Commission as a whole.

Article IV - Section 7 (Zoning):

- The Sub-Committee felt that this is a matter best examined by the Commission as a whole, and that specific zoning provisions in this section might be best left until the Commission writes zoning rules.
- Member Silverman-Starr spoke to Minerva Park's zoning being much less complicated than a larger municipality such as Groveport or Dublin.

Article IV - Sections 8-9 (Adopting Technical Codes and Publication):

- Member Wolf explained that there should be a requirement regarding codification and that the Charter should explicitly require posting to a publicly accessible Village website.
- The Sub-Committee was in agreement with the requirement for internet publication.
- Chairwoman Conger added that she would like the full-language of the ordinances to be easily accessible, either via the web or in-person.
- Member Beeba asked if it would be useful to require the general explanation of ordinances to be posted in the Village Update. Member Allison agreed, speaking to the value of having a general overview of codified ordinances mailed to citizens.

Organization and Scheduling:

- The Sub-Committee discussed the schedule for drafting and reviewing Articles going forward.
- The Sub-Committee resolved to reconvene next Sunday, 3/17/19, for the purposes of drafting Articles V and VI.
- The Commission, as a whole, will review Article IV at its Thursday meeting (3/14/19).
- Thursday, 3/21/19, the Commission will review Article VII.
- Thursday, 3/28/19, the Commission will review Articles V and VI.
- There will be a tentatively scheduled public information session on 4/6/19.
- Vice-Chair Parks will enquire as to the timetable for Counsel memos regarding the various Articles.

The meeting adjourned at: 10:54 am.