



CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
December 09, 2015 - 8:00 AM
Hjemkomst Center - Elm Board Room

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

1. September 16, 2015 Charter Commission Meeting

Reports of the Chair, Officers, Commissions and Committees

Public Comment

Unfinished Business

2. Charter Commission Bylaws

New Business

3. Set 2016 City Charter Commission Meetings

Adjourn



**City of Moorhead
Charter Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2015 at 8:00 AM
Hjemkomst Center - Elm Board Room**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

Board Member:	Eldon Wollman	Present
Board Member:	Russ Hanson	Present
Board Member:	Julian Dahlquist	Absent until 8:03 am
Board Member:	Ken Tangen	Present
Board Member:	Angelique King	Present
Board Member:	Darvin Landa	Present
Board Member:	James Steen	Absent
Board Member:	Athena Gracyk	Present
Board Member:	Ronald Hagemann	Present
Board Member:	Tom Krabbenhoft	Present
Board Member:	Doug Fagerlie	Present
Board Member:	Bradley Vesta	Present
Board Member:	Michael Friesen	Present

Approval of Minutes

June 10, 2015 Charter Commission Meeting

Motion to approve minutes of June 10, 2015 as amended by Tangen seconded by Gracyk; motion approved by unanimous vote.

Reports of the Chair, Officers, Commissions and Committees

No reports were made.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Unfinished Business

Charter Commission Bylaws

John Shockley, City Attorney, provided a brief history of the term limits. Charter Commission members discussed current term limits and proposed changes. Charter Commission members directed City Staff to meet with Mayor Williams to discuss the following:

*Do you want the term to continue until reappointed or a new member is appointed or when your term is done then you are done serving?

*Can you serve again after you serve two consecutive terms with a break?

*If you are serving a ward position, can you serve an at-large position after your terms expire?

Charter Commission members would like to extend an invite to Mayor Williams and Morrie Lanning, former Mayor.

New Business

Next Charter Commission Meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2015 at 8:00 am at the Hjemkomst Center – Elm Boardroom.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 am

*Respectfully submitted by:
Michelle French, City Clerk*



Memorandum

To: Moorhead Charter Commission
From: Michelle French, City Clerk
Date: November 23, 2015
RE: Board/Commission Appointments

On September 16, 2015, the Charter Commission directed the City Attorney and City Clerk to meet with Moorhead Mayor Williams to discuss term limits with proposed changes.

On September 22, 2015, Mayor Williams, John Shockley and I met and asked the Mayor the following questions:

***Do you want the term of an appointed individual to continue until reappointed or a new member is appointed or when term has expired should the individual vacate the position?**

A resident whose term expires will continue in that position until a new member is appointed or the current member is reappointed.

***Can you serve again after you serve two consecutive terms with a break?**

Yes, however, there are many residents fully qualified to bring in new ideas and my preference is to appoint new members.

***If you are serving a ward position, can you serve an at-large position after your two consecutive terms expire?**

No, consecutive terms apply regardless of whether you serve one as at large and one as a ward position, a term would be determined as a term.

After our meeting with Mayor Williams, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been created to keep applicants informed of the process regarding an appointment of a resident to a board/commission that is approved by the Mayor and Council.

The Mayor and City Council will discuss the SOP along with these questions at a future Committee of the Whole meeting on January 19, 2016.

Andrea J. Murphy

From: morrielanning@gomoorhead.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 10:21 AM
To: Andrea J. Murphy
Subject: Re: Moorhead Charter Commission question

Andrea,

Sorry for the delay in responding, but we have been on the road traveling to Arizona via Texas.

Thanks for sending me the May 1987 resolution adopted by the Moorhead City Council. You can tell that the resolution was carefully and thoughtfully prepared. I think we did a good job of cleaning up a citizen appointment process that needed improvement. Prior to adopting the resolution, the process and rules governing appointments were unclear and inconsistent. Furthermore, we had some citizen appointees serving on important groups, like the Public Service Commission, for over 20 years. While we recognized the importance of experience, we found that a lack of turnover could result in a way too comfortable relationship between Commission members and staff. We decided that two three year terms plus additional time for completing a partial term was long enough given the talent available in the community. In hindsight, that was a good policy for most groups, but it was inadequate for the Public Service Commission. Given the complexity and scope of authority of the Commission, the Council later extended the PSC appointments to 9 years. Unfortunately, the Council has been inconsistent in the enforcement of its appointment policy which leads to complaints and problems undermining the policy. An ongoing problem has been the enforcement of the appointment policy. For a variety of reasons, Council members have been reluctant to replace citizens who have reached their term limit. Whatever policy you have in place is only as good as your willingness to enforce it. The Council and the community benefit from an appointment policy that utilizes the best citizen representation available in the community.

The policy we adopted in 1987 was a good policy that could use some updating relative to the Public Service Commission and provisions for policy enforcement by the Council.

Best wishes as you work through the appointment policy issues.

Morrie Lanning

----- Original Message -----

From:
"Andrea J. Murphy" <AMurphy@OhnstadLaw.com>

To:
"morrielanning@gomoorhead.com" <morrielanning@gomoorhead.com>

Cc:

Sent:
Thu, 3 Dec 2015 20:07:59 +0000
Subject:
Moorhead Charter Commission question

Mr. Lanning,

I work with John Shockley, the City Attorney for Moorhead. He is working with the Charter Commission and asked me to contact you to see if you have any recollection of why a policy ended up the way it did. Attached is a Resolution from 1987 that adopted a set of Policies for citizen advisory groups, which hasn't changed much since its adoption. His question for you is related to A(10), which limits a citizen's appointment to no more than 2 consecutive terms – do you remember why this was limited to 2 terms?