



Lowell City Council

Sub/Committee Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: September 20, 2017
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Senior Center
276 Broadway Street, Lowell, MA

Ad Hoc Charter Review – Voting District Representation SC September 20, 2017.

PRESENT:

Present on roll Call were Chairman Leary, and C. Samaras. C. Leahy arrived later. Also present were Kevin Murphy (City Manager), C. Mercier, C. Belanger, Eda Matchak (Elections), Christine O'Connor (Solicitor) and Kevin Coughlin (DPD).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Leary called the meeting noting the attendance and agenda items of the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Leary commented on the creation of the subcommittee and noted it was the second meeting and that they were seeking public participation. C. Leary noted the need for feedback to decide if changes are needed and if so what type of change. C. Leary provided overview of Plan E form of government and commented on the selection and the role of the Mayor in the system. Solicitor O'Connor outlined the possible pathways to changing charter; which included, Charter Commission; Special Acts filed with legislature; and Ballot Initiative. Solicitor O'Connor noted the need to file special legislation to ensure a binding ballot as the charter currently does not allow for same. C. Leary commented on other communities who operate under different variations of a Plan E. C. Samaras commented on input from the community as being key in the decision to either make changes or not. C. Mercier noted community should be deciding as it is early in the process and further noted her preference. C. Belanger noted the goal of having diversity on the Council as well as on all civic boards as well. C. Belanger would welcome input of the community but noted concerns of changes.



Meeting was opened to public and following addressed the body: Judith Durant; Beth Veno; Paul Rath Yem; Kathleen Marcin; Robert Page; Thayer Eastman; Jack Mitchell; Dick Howe, Jr.; Nancy Judge; Bernie Judge; Sam Nee; Validimar Corando; Cliff Krieger; and Lynda Clark. C. Leahy commented on calculating the number of councilors and it being dependent on population size. Solicitor O'Connor noted the different choices for change and the process indicating different diversity data and how that information can be made available. Ms. Matchak commented on other communities as well as process to change precincts and wards. C. Leahy thanked those in attendance for their input and noted process moving forward. C. Samaras commented on open dialogue and the use of neighborhood groups to assist with process.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Leahy to Adjourn. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk