

CITY OF STAMFORD 19TH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Members

JEANETTE BILICZNIANSKI

CYNTHIA BOWSER

KAREN CAMPOREALE

SUE HALPERN

FRANCES LANE

MICHAEL LAROBINA

Members

STEVEN LOEB

ALEX MARTINEZ

J.R. MCMULLEN

SHELLEY MICHELSON

ANTHONY PRAMBERGER, JR.

CLEMON WILLIAMS

Steven Kolenberg, Co-Chair
Thomas Lombardo, Co-Chair
Jackie Pioli, Clerk

REPORT

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

6:30 p.m.

This meeting was held remotely at the above date and time. Present were Commission Members Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams. Also present were Jeffrey Curtis, President of the Board of Representatives; Megan Cottrell, Clerk of the Board of Representatives; Bradley Bewkes, Co-Chair of the Charter Revision Committee; Nina Sherwood and Jeff Stella, Charter Revision Committee Members; Mayor Caroline Simmons; and five members of the public.

1. Present of the BOR Jeffrey Curtis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. President Curtis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mayor Caroline Simmons administered the Oath of Office to members of the 19th Charter Revision Commission.
4. President Curtis took the position of Temporary Chair; Clerk of the BOR Megan Cottrell, took position of Temporary Clerk.
5. Megan Cottrell, Clerk of the BOR, taking the position as Temporary Clerk, called the roll, confirming that there were 14 members present. (One member arrived after roll call).
6. Election of Permanent Chair (or Co-Chairs), conducted by President Curtis:

Members discussed having a Chair and a Vice Chair, versus having two Co-Chairs.

A motion to have two Co-Chairs was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 13-1-0 (Members Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Kolenberg, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor; Member Lane opposed).

Motions were made and seconded to nominate Members Kolenberg, Lombardo, and Williams for the positions of Co-Chair. The nominees spoke as to why they would be good Co-Chairs.

A motion was made and seconded to elect two of the three candidates, with each Member voting for two candidates.

Member Lombardo received 14 votes (Members Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, and Pramberger).

Member Kolenberg received eight votes (Bilicznianski, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Loeb, Michelson, Pioli, and Williams).

Member Williams received eight votes (Members Bowser, Camporeale, Larobina, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Pramberger, and Williams).

There being a tie between Members Kolenberg and Williams, Member Williams said he would welcome Member Kolenberg being a Co-Chair, and withdrew his name as a candidate.

President Curtis declared Member Kolenberg and Member Lombardo as Co-Chairs of the 19th Charter Revision Commission, and turned the meeting over to them.

PERMANENT CO-CHAIRS PRESIDE OVER MEETING

7. Election of Permanent Clerk – conducted by Co-Chairs Kolenberg and Lombardo. Co-Chair Kolenberg asked for nominations for permanent Clerk. There being none, Member Pioli stated she would volunteer for the position. A motion to elect Member Pioli as permanent Clerk was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.
8. Election of Vice Chair – not applicable due to the election of Co-Chairs.

The following items were discussed together by Rep. Bewkes and the Commission Members:

9. Distribution and Discussion of Timeline for Commission's work
 - a. Distribution & Discussion of BOR resolutions
 - b. Initiating Charter Revision
 - c. Appointing the 19th Charter Revision Commission
 - d. Concerning the Charge of the 19th Charter Revision Commission
10. Administrative and Procedural Remarks
 - a. Chair(s) to prepare a budget for next meeting
 - b. Chair(s) to prepare rules of order for next meeting
 - c. Chair(s) to prepare committee assignments for next meeting
 - d. Chair(s) to work with Corporation Counsel's office re: employment of legal counsel
 - e. Scheduling of first public hearing
 - f. Meeting dates/times
 - g. FOI requirements/video-taping
 - h. City website for documents/videos
 - i. Use of Board Staff/Legislative Officer
 - j. City emails/identification badges
11. Next meeting date

Rep. Bewkes explained that the Board Office is a resource for procedural issues, communications, and any questions relating to the Charter process. FOIA training with someone in the City will be set up soon.

Timeline: per the charge that was approved by the full Board, the final report of the Charter Commission is due 16 months from date of initiation of charge, given by Resolution at the February 7, 2022 Board meeting. This means the final report is due on June 7, 2023. What happens between now and then is up to the Commission. There is no specific schedule other than the due date of the final report.

The next priority steps should be:

- Hold a public hearing to collect opinions from elected officials and the community regarding what parts of the Charter to focus on.
- Review the Resolution and supporting materials that were sent to the Commission Members.
- Retain legal counsel.

Additionally, the following items need to be done:

- Prepare a budget.
- Set up committees.
- Learn the rules as to how to conduct meetings.

There was discussion about gathering a list of potential attorneys for outside counsel. There are attorneys on the Commission who could vet those on that list. Commission Members can send suggestions of attorneys to the Board Office, and that information will be disseminated to the Commission.

A motion to request to the BOR to allocate \$10,000 for the purpose of retaining outside counsel to advise the Charter Commission was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 15-0-0 (Members Bilicznianski, Bowser, Camporeale, Halpern, Kolenberg, Lane, Larobina, Loeb, Lombardo, Martinez, McMullen, Michelson, Pioli, Pramberger, and Williams in favor).

The next meeting of the 19th Charter Revision Commission will be Wednesday, March 30th, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by,

Steven Kolenberg, Co-Chair

Thomas Lombardo, Co-Chair

This meeting is available on [video](#).