

**CARSON CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the April 23, 2002 Meeting**

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Charter Review Committee was scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2002 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Shelly Aldean  
Vice Chairperson Donna DePauw  
Ernie Adler  
Gail Parsons  
Richard Reich  
Jeanne Simons  
Steve Suwe

**STAFF:** Alan Glover, Clerk Recorder  
Supervisor Robin Williamson, Ward 1  
Supervisor Pete Livermore, Ward 3  
Jason Woodbury, Deputy District Attorney  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson Aldean. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

**A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL (1-0001)** - Chairperson Aldean called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Members Cook, Jackson, Pickett and Vettel were absent. Member Reich arrived at 5:14 p.m.

**B. ORIENTATION ON OPEN MEETING LAW PROCEDURES AND RULES OF ORDER (1-0013)** - At Mr. Woodbury's suggestion, this item was deferred until later in the meeting. (1-1495) Mr. Woodbury distributed a written summary of the Open Meeting Law and reviewed the same. Chairperson Aldean thanked Mr. Woodbury for his presentation.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0027)** - None.

**D. MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA (1-0008)** - As noted above, the agenda was modified to address item B following item H.

**E. DISCLOSURES (1-0037)** - None.

**F. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - March 26, 2002 (1-0046)** - Member Simons moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chairperson DePauw seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND AMENDMENT OF THE CARSON CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, UPON PASSING AN ORDINANCE, TO CHANGE THE METHOD BY WHICH SUPERVISORS ARE ELECTED (1-0056)** - Chairperson Aldean provided background information on this item. Mr. Glover provided an overview of the most recent legislative redistricting process, and advised that the school board is required

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to be elected in the same manner as the city supervisors. He explained that precincts are drawn on the number of registered voters and ward divisions are based on population. Presently, all the wards and school districts are equal in population. School districts are statutorily required to follow legislative lines as close as possible. Mr. Glover explained the process for designating precincts in each ward and advised that, for the first time in 20 years, school districts overlap ward and legislative boundaries. Supervisor Williamson provided a ward map which Mr. Glover displayed and reviewed. He explained that ward voting would require approximately 100 precincts in order for each to be unique. Some of the precincts would, therefore, be so small that counting their votes secretly would be impossible. Additional precincts would also increase election costs.

Member Adler expressed concerns regarding the district configuration and the increasing cost of campaigns. He suggested two dual districts and discussed the method by which the candidate would campaign and be elected. Discussion took place regarding how to integrate the school district wards, the possibility of reducing the size of the school board to five members, and campaign costs. Supervisor Williamson expressed concerns with regard to the possible disenfranchisement of voters and properly addressing ward-related issues. Supervisor Livermore discussed his involvement in issues outside his ward.

In response to a question, Mr. Glover advised that new election equipment for approximately 100 precincts would be a substantial cost to the City. Chairperson Aldean requested an overlay for the ward map which would display the school districts. In response to a further question, Mr. Glover provided a brief overview of the assembly and senate districts and discussion took place with regard to the same.

Consensus of the Committee was to canvass the school board members for input regarding the possibility of proposed legislation to reduce the school districts to four candidates who would run contiguous with the wards and one at-large candidate. Supervisor Livermore advised that one member of the Board of Supervisors continually monitors the wards from which citizens are appointed to City advisory committees. He suggested that some consideration may need to be given to ward representation for such bodies as the Regional Planning Commission. Member Adler requested Mr. Woodbury to research the legalities of reducing the school board to five members and having them run contiguous with the wards. Chairperson Aldean expressed an interest in the rationale behind establishing a seven-member school board. Member Reich suggested discussing the matter with Member Cook, and Chairperson Aldean volunteered to do so.

Discussion took place regarding the census information included in the agenda materials and concentrations of Hispanic residents throughout the City. Chairperson Aldean requested census information over the last ten years. Consensus of the Committee was to delay specific recommendation with regard to nominating by ward and election at large until the feasibility of reducing the school board is known. Mr. Glover acknowledged that it would be possible to reconfigure the districts for the 2004 election if the school board is reduced to five members. He further acknowledged that all districts are configured by population, and discussion took place regarding a determination regarding the number of school children in each ward.

At the request of Member Simons, Supervisor Williamson and Supervisor Livermore explained their positions on the issue of ward nomination/at large election. The Committee thanked the Supervisors for their attendance and participation.

Additional discussion took place regarding the possibility of reducing the school board, the number of years the matter of ward nomination has been brought forward by the Committee, and campaign costs and

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logistics. Chairperson Aldean requested information regarding the deadlines for submission of the Committee's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Legislative Council Bureau.

#### **H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND AMENDMENT OF THE CARSON CITY CHARTER TO REQUIRE EVERY ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTEE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY-SPONSORED ORIENTATION REGARDING NEVADA OPEN MEETING LAW REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN APPOINTED (1-1134)**

- Chairperson Aldean provided background information on this item and, in response to a question, Mr. Woodbury discussed the definition of a public body as delineated by the Nevada Open Meeting Law and its applicability to the Committee. Chairperson Aldean read a portion of NRS 281 regarding the definition of a public officer into the record, and discussion took place regarding whether ethics laws apply to advisory committees.

Member Adler expressed agreement with the recommendation. Member Suwe agreed and commented he was surprised that the training was not already required. Vice Chairperson DePauw expressed disagreement with the recommendation "because somewhere along the line people have to take responsibility for themselves." She suggested that members of a committee will know if they have a conflict of interest. Chairperson Aldean solicited comments from the other Committee members. Member Parsons expressed agreement with the recommendation. Member Reich suggested that the appointing authority(ies) should be inquiring of each applicant regarding the possibility of conflicts of interest, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Vice Chairperson DePauw suggested requiring each appointee to sign an ethical conduct agreement. Member Adler reiterated his support for advisory committee appointees to have training on the Open Meeting Law and ethics laws because neither are based on common sense. Chairperson Aldean suggested that most people would appreciate the orientation and commented that the standards should be raised which, in turn, may ultimately weed out people with personal agendas. Member Simons expressed support for the recommendation.

In response to a question, Mr. Woodbury advised that specific provisions exist regarding ethics in government. Chairperson Aldean suggested refining the language of the agenda item to reference specific codes and regulations, and reagendaing it for next month's meeting. Member Simons requested that the language of the agenda item include a reference to conflict of interest. Following further discussion, consensus of the Committee was to include elected officials in the requirement. Member Suwe suggested that the concept should concentrate on a required orientation and not so much the material to be covered. Chairperson Aldean suggested that the requirement should at least include orientation on the Open Meeting Law and ethics laws. No formal action was taken.

#### **I. DISCUSSION CONCERNING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (1-1691)**

- Member Reich requested staff to agendaize discussion and possible action regarding ways to publicize the activities of the Committee in order to generate more public interest and participation. Member Simons discussed the possibility of agendaizing an item to discuss taxes and fees. Vice Chairperson DePauw advised that if the subject of her concern is included in the Charter, it can be agendaized for discussion and possible action. Chairperson Aldean requested Members Reich and Simons to provide definitive language for their respective agenda items to the recording secretary.

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**J. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT** (1-1785) - Chairperson Aldean suggested considering an alternative to the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to accommodate the Memorial Day holiday, and discussion took place with regard to the same. Consensus of the Committee was to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chairperson DePauw moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Member Simons seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Minutes of the April 23, 2002 meeting of the Carson City Charter Review Committee are so approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2002.

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SHELLY ALDEAN, Chair