

TOWN OF RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND
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HOME RULE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

July 9, 2015

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

A. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P. M. by L. Valencia

B. Roll Call

Present: L. Valencia, I. Lipton, E. Liese, C. Davis, B. Reyburn, R. Millar

Also present: Town Solicitor K. Ellsworth and Clerk S. Rapose

Absent: M. Van Der Hooft

L. Valencia explained that he had reached out to M. Van Der Hooft and asked her to attend, but she declined.

C. Approval of minutes

01 Approval of minutes from June 24, 2015 meeting

MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by B. Reyburn to approve the minutes as written.

Ayes: L. Valencia

R. Millar

B. Reyburn

I. Lipton

Abstain: E. Liese

C. Davis

02 Approval of minutes from July 2, 2015 meeting

MOTION made by E. Liese, second by B. Reyburn to approve the minutes as written.

Ayes: L. Valencia

E. Liese

C. Davis

B. Reyburn

Abstain: I. Lipton

R. Millar

I. Lipton wanted to apologize for getting upset at the last meeting. She will not apologize for what she said.

R. Millar added that the reason he was abstaining was that he didn't have a chance to read the minutes.

D. Unfinished Business

01 Continued discussion of potential amendments to the Home Rule Charter

L. Valencia explained that he drafted a letter to the Town Council.

I. Lipton is concerned with the language on item two stating that there was a split vote.

L. Valencia explained that all of the other items in the letter were unanimous. He wanted to note the split decision on that item.

I. Lipton stated that that item had the support of a 3-1 vote.

R. Millar stated that the motion was already made and passed to add the Social Activities Committee to the Charter. He asked why it wasn't in the proposed Charter or the letter to Council.

K. Ellsworth explained that she hadn't attended the meeting that it was discussed. If the Commission wants it in there, she will add it.

L. Valencia stated that unless anyone on the Commission has any objection, they can add it to the recommendation letter. He asked K. Ellsworth to add it to the drafted Charter.

K. Ellsworth read aloud a drafted description of the Social Activities Committee.

"A Senior Activities Committee appointed by the Town Council. The Senior Activities Committee shall plan social and recreational activities that enhance the quality of life for seniors."

MOTION made by C. Davis, second by E. Liese to approve as written.

Ayes: 5

Abstain: 1 (L. Valencia)

The Commission received a memo from the Finance Director in regards to the Financial Town Meeting. He feels that the way it is currently written in the Charter is sufficient.

K. Ellsworth asked if the Commission would like to extend the date until June 14th. She is striking the words, "second Monday in" and adding the number, "14" after June.

The Commission agrees. They would like to provide the Town Council with greater flexibility for the Financial Town Meeting.

L. Valencia asked for feedback on the proposed letter to Council.

E. Liese recommended adding "qualified candidates" to section one of the letter to Council. She feels that it is important for the residents of Richmond to know that opening up the position to non-residents allows them a better chance at finding a qualified candidate.

I. Lipton agrees.

K. Ellsworth will amend the draft of the letter to Council for the next meeting.

L. Valencia feels comfortable amending the first sentence of Item 2 to explain that issue was passed with a 3-1 vote. That way, it shows that there were people absent in that vote.

E. Liese wanted to clarify that she wasn't calling for a re-vote at the last meeting. She was just looking to discuss what had transpired at the previous meeting.

L. Valencia likes the second paragraph under Item 2 in the recommendations to the Town Council. He would like a motion to show that everyone agrees.

MOTION made by B. Reyburn, second by C. Davis to accept paragraph 2, of item 2 in the letter to the Town Council.

Ayes- 5

Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)

E. New Business

01 Approval of amended Home Rule Charter draft dated July 3, 2015 as submitted by the Town Solicitor

MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by E. Liese to approve as amended.

Ayes – 5

Abstain – 1 (L. Valencia)

02 Schedule future meeting dates

The Commission decided to meet July 13, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. to approve minutes and letter to Council.

L. Valencia would like to thank everyone. He is hoping that everyone will be able to attend the Council meeting.

F. Public Forum

G. MOTION made by I. Lipton, second by C. Davis to adjourn at 7:05 P. M.

Minutes approved as written July 13, 2015

Sarah S. Rapose
Deputy Town Clerk