



# City of Cleveland Heights Charter Review Commission

**DRAFT**

## **Decisions and Rationales**

1 March 2018  
Council Chambers  
Cleveland Heights City Hall

Charter Review Commission: Present; Patrycia Ajdukiewicz, Craig Cobb, Jessica Cohen, Michael Gaynier, Randy Keller, Howard Maier, John Newman, Jr., Chair, , Carla Rautenberg, Vince Reddy, Maia Rucker, Allosious Snodgrass, Katherine Solender, James Vail. Absent: David Perelman; Sarah West.

### 1. Acceptance of Decisions and Rationales from 15 February 2018

Moved and seconded to accept the amended Decisions and Rationales 15 February 2018. Accepted unanimously.

### 2. Discussion of possible public forum.

A discussion was begun about potentially convening a public forum on the subject of structure of government, including the timing of, format of, and publicity regarding such a forum. The discussion was suspended to move forward with the guest presentations, but with the discussion to be resumed following the presentations.

### 3. Presentation by Thomas Wagner, member of a recent charter review commission in the city of Lakewood

Mr. Wagner, a lawyer, made introductory remarks and responded to questions from Commission members. He described the Lakewood commission and certain aspects of its structure and procedures; its activities (including guests speakers); its timing and sequencing; the scope and intent of the commission's review and redrafting; the outcome of the its consideration of mayor/city manager forms of government together with circumstances that may have influenced that outcome and items that had been advanced as favoring one side or the other of that issue; his position on that issue and his reasons; the size and structure of the Lakewood city council together with certain demographic circumstances and the commission members'

view on this subject; the nature of the commission's final work product; and the timing and circumstances of an eventual public vote in relation to the delivery of the commission's product.

4. Presentation by Leslie Jones, President of Forest Hill Home Owners Association (FHHO)

Mr. Jones made introductory remarks and responded to questions from Commission members. He noted his initial residence in Cleveland, then East Cleveland, and for the last four decades in Cleveland Heights, the three most recent ones in Forest Hill (which straddles Cleveland Heights [about two-thirds] and East Cleveland [about one-third]); his other civic involvements; certain observations regarding East Cleveland in contrast to Cleveland Heights and how the latter has been run; the focus of FHHO (which is attending to certain internal structural items of its own) on housing issues and associated activities in that regard, as well as FHHO's attention to development and zoning issues and activities in that regard. These activities are in conjunction with governments of the two cities, including examples of the types of interactions with city government; his attitude, based on experience in interacting with city governments, regarding elected mayor and council/manager systems and features, including as respects having a spokesperson for the city internally and externally, as well as his attitude regarding ward/at large structures of city council; his involvement with developing the Cleveland Heights master plan and the desire for and approach to its implementation in certain respects, including FHHO's attention to certain aspects of its implementation.

5. Resumed discussion of potential public forum; items for March 15 meeting

In context of a potential public forum, there was discussion of additional guests already scheduled, certain yet additional guests not yet scheduled, associated timing and also formatting, including a possible roundtable discussion involving developer-related participants (with potential participants yet to be identified and suggestions solicited from members of the commission). A determination was made to target the public forum for April 19 at the Community Center, with Allosious Snodgrass, Katie Solender, Jessica Cohen and possibly Sarah West to undertake the planning, most likely using a format generally similar to that used in a charter review in Flint, Michigan, with an initial overall presentation, then multiple, breakout groups of citizen discussing topics and a follow-up opportunity for non-attendees to responding online to questions on the discussion topics, effective by broad advance public notice.

It was agreed that the discussion at the March 15 meeting on interim status of thinking by commission members would focus on manager/mayor and council structure issues. It was also agreed that the March 15 meeting would include an effort to identify additional items of the charter that members believed would need

consideration by the commission in due course, and also a discussion of longer range planning and associated timing for the continuing work of the commission with a suggestion on approaches/timing to be circulated in advance of the meeting.

#### 6. Additional matters

A suggestion for a supplemental question to be sent to council members was discussed and deferred pending the next meeting, when it was expected Sarah West would be present.

The Chair offered his thoughts on the extent of public notice of commission proceedings.

There was a suggestion for the possibility of the commission to write and seek publication of an article about the workings of the commission. The sentiment of the commission was against the need for such an article, at least not at this time, and it will not be pursued currently if at all.

#### 6. Public Comment

The Chair offered certain thoughts on the public comment process, with particular reference to the preceding meeting. Two persons presented public comments. Bob Brown spoke on the public comment process, the suggestion for use of small groups in the planned public forum, the scope and timing of publicity of the commission's activities, and the structure of guest presentations. Sandy Moran spoke regarding the publicity of the commission's work, a suggestion as to a question for Mr. Wagner, and implementation and accountability for execution of the master plan.

#### 10. Adjournment

Committee agreed by consent to adjourn after the last public comment.