



# RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL

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## RAVENNA CHARTER BOARD AGENDA

Ravenna City Council Chambers  
Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 6:00pm

**The Charter Review Commission Meeting was held in person and was called to order at 6:04pm.**

### Roll Call

The following Commission Members were present: Antoinette Austin, Carmen Laudato, Denna Tannert, Dirk Remley, Gail Jones-Nemeth, Jonathan P. Jennings, Mark E. Smith, Mike Bogo, Octavia Jones, Rory R. Becker, Sharon Spencer, Steven Farhat, Michael Smith II.

Absent: Suzanne Hoffman

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Clerk of Council, Chelsea Gregor; Councilperson Rob Karis, Councilperson Christina West, Law Office of Indigenous Peoples.

### Opening:

Mayor Frank Seman welcomed the Charter Review Commission and thanked them for their participation. He stated that the Commission is required every 5 years and that the city is home ruled. The Charter is a function of City Council and the by-laws that are passed by the Charter Commission are protections for the city. The first meeting is an organizational meeting to make the necessary decisions to move forward.

Law Director, Frank Cimino, addressed the Commission and thanked them for their service. He stated that the Charter was created in 1971 and said that the bottom line for the Charter Review is to review and evaluate the Charter to see if changes are necessary. Once the Commission establishes any changes, they will be submitted to Council and will either be approved or denied, as is, to then be placed on the ballot to be voted on by the public. Mr. Cimino will be available to provide information and answer questions. He stated that a secretary has been established and now a person to preside over the meeting should be picked.

- Mr. Bogo inquired as to what were appropriate suggestions and Mr. Cimino stated that the Charter is the basis for which suggestions should be made.
- Mr. Cimino stated that it will take 5 votes in favor by Council to move an item forward.
- Mr. Kairis introduced himself and thanked the Commission for their service. He stated that the Charter is a way to address and change things within the city.
- Ms. West introduced herself and thanked the Commission for their service. She stated that her experience serving on the Charter Review was an interesting and positive experience, adding that members are welcomed to reach out to her.

### **Selection of Chairperson**

The Commission discussed the position of Chairperson and creating a Co-chair or Vice Chair model. Dirk Remley offered his services as Chairperson. The Commission members expressed their sentiments towards the position, and it was decided by a hand vote of 11-2 to create a Chair/Vice-Chair model.

Steven Farhat nominated Dirk Remley as Chair.

- Motion to nominate Dirk Remley as Chairperson by Steven Farhat, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carmen Laudato- **All Ayes**

The Commission members discussed the Vice Chair position, and Steven Farhat and Mark Smith were both suggested. A roll call vote was taken for both

- Motion to nominate Steven Farhat as Vice Chairperson by Sharon Spencer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carmen Laudato- Dirk Remley, Jonathan P. Jennings, Steven Farhat- **Ayes**, Antoinette Austin, Deena Tannert, Gail Jones-Nemeth, Mark E. Smith, Mike Bogo, Octavia Jones, Rory R. Becker, Michael Smith II- **No**
- Motion to nominate Mark E. Smith as Vice Chairperson by Deena Tannert, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail Jones-Nemeth- Antoinette Austin, Deena Tannert, Gail Jones-Nemeth, Mark E. Smith, Mike Bogo, Octavia Jones, Rory R. Becker, Michael Smith II- **Ayes**, Carmen Laudato, Dirk Remley, Jonathan P. Jennings, Sharon Spencer – **No**, Steven Farhat, Sharon Spencer, Dirk Remley- **Abstain**

By a vote of 5-8 Mark E. Smith became the Commission Vice Chair.

### **Meeting Schedule**

The Commission decided to meet every two weeks on Wednesday's at 6pm for one hour. The secretary will make the schedule for approval.

### **Charter Review Objectives**

- Deena Tannert suggested to have the Commission do a preliminary run through for the next meeting and it was added to the next agenda.
- The Mayor and Law Director were added to the next agenda for interviews.
- The Commission requested a City Organizational Chart for their review.
- The secretary will create an email list for members and will submit the agendas to Commission members the Friday before a meeting. Members are to contact her if they would like to add anything to the agenda.
- The Commission stated that they can take public comment and suggestions at the end of the meetings to then address and add to the next agenda.
- Motion to adjourn at 7:02pm by Dirk Remley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark E. Smith- **All Ayes**