

City of Norton
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 15, 2006

The Charter Review Commission of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for their first public meeting in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. Mayor Joseph Kernan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Barbara Vimont, Gene Becker, Christopher Judge, Sue Ringkor, Megan Booth, Robert Daymut

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Joseph Kernan
Claude Collins, Administrative Officer

I. INTRODUCTIONS:

Since this was the first meeting of the newly assembled Charter Review Commission (CRC), a brief profile was given by each member:

- 1.) Robert Daymut stated that he moved to Norton a couple of years ago as a retiree on disability. He was a software consultant for 15 years in which some of his duties were project management, hiring, laying out project plans, giving presentations, etc. He thought participating in the CRC would be a good opportunity to learn how government operates and to meet more people in Norton.
- 2.) Barbara Vimont stated that she was currently working as a Corporate Compliance Officer for Akron General Health System and has a legal degree and a Medical Records Administrator degree. She has lived in Norton for twelve years and joined the CRC to learn how a City operates and have an impact on how it operates.
- 3.) Gene Becker stated that he has lived in Norton for thirty-five years and is retired from Babcock and Wilcox. His kids grew up and attended Norton schools. He is an Engineer by education, mostly in program management by profession. He wanted to participate in the CRC so that he could be more proactive in helping to give Norton direction.
- 4.) Christopher Judge stated that he is an Attorney with the Walkley and Kennedy firm in Norton. He said he grew up in Norton and attended Norton High School. He wanted to find a way to get involved with the City and he believed that being a part of the CRC seemed very interesting to him. He has a Political Science degree so he was interested to see first hand how government works.
- 5.) Sue Ringkor stated that she currently works at home for a major insurance company whose offices closed last year. Her duties have included everything from Claims Benefit Analyst to Quality Analyst. She has lived in Norton for fourteen years and has two daughters who attend Norton schools. The reason she was interested in serving on the CRC was that during a major subdivision application, of which she was an adjacent property owner, she became interested in different behind the scenes aspects of government.
- 6.) Megan Booth stated that she was a Realtor and has lived in Norton approximately six years. She grew up in a neighboring town that seemed to grow with no control. Her husband grew up in Norton and attended Norton schools and she recently found out that her father-in-law, Bob Booth, served on Norton Council a long time ago. She said she worked with the Small Business Council when they revised their by-laws and learned that people can easily be diverted away from important issues. She was encouraged, though, with the group chosen because everyone seems dynamic.
- 7.) Mayor Kernan reported that Mr. Charles Campbell was the seventh person chosen to serve on the CRC, but he was not able to attend that night. He added that Mr. Campbell still needed to be sworn in by Council.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Mayor Kernan explained the duties of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. He then asked for nominations for Chairperson. Ms. Vimont, Mr. Becker, and Mr. Judge volunteered to serve as Chairperson. The Secretary called for a motion regarding Ms. Vimont, the first volunteer, being elected as Chairperson. **Ms. Ringkor moved to elect Ms. Vimont as Chairperson; seconded by Ms. Booth. ROLL CALL: Ms. Ringkor-Yea, Ms. Booth-Yea, Ms. Vimont-Yea, Mr. Daymut-Yea, Mr. Becker-Nay, Mr. Judge-Nay. The motion passed 4-2, electing Ms. Vimont as Chairperson.**

The Secretary asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Vimont nominated Mr. Becker for Vice-Chairperson. With no other nomination, the Secretary asked for a motion. **Ms. Vimont moved to elect Mr. Becker as Vice-Chairperson; seconded by Ms. Ringkor. ROLL CALL: Ms. Vimont-Yea, Ms. Ringkor-Yea, Mr. Becker-Yea, Ms. Booth-Yea, Mr. Daymut-Yea. The motion passed 5-0, electing Mr. Becker as Vice-Chairperson.**

III. DETERMINE A REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE:

After discussion, the Commission decided to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. They agreed that the meetings should last no longer than two hours. The Secretary mentioned to the Commission that their regular meetings would be held in the Community Center. The Mayor informed the Commission that the CRC meetings were subject to the Sunshine Law, so they would be posted by the Secretary and open to the public. He mentioned that Ann Campbell, Administrative Secretary, could place the regular meeting time on the City's website.

IV. DISCUSSION OF PURPOSE & GOALS:

Mayor Kernan reported that the Charter requires that every five years a CRC is to review and update, if necessary, the Charter. He said that the current one has not changed much since it was printed in 1962. That means that this is a wonderful document and does not need changed, or it could mean that nothing has been done with it. Mayor Kernan suggested that the CRC should take small steps with revising the Charter because the last revision was voted down at the ballot due to too many changes. He commented that a lot of hard work went into it and it was a good document, nevertheless, the public did not agree with so much change. A little bit of progress is better than no progress. There was discussion regarding the amount of time the CRC should spend reviewing the Charter. Mayor Kernan stated that he wanted the review completed by the end of this year. He suggested they focus on the most important items.

Mayor Kernan suggested that changes be submitted to Council for approval one at a time instead of all at once. Mr. Becker wondered if Council's approval needed to be a majority vote or a unanimous vote. Mayor Kernan stated that it would be a two-thirds vote.

Mr. Daymut wondered if it would be a good idea to review the last revised Charter. After discussion, the Commission decided to review it. Mr. Collins said he would e-mail it to the Secretary and she could forward it to the members.

Mr. Becker stated that he and Mr. Judge were approached by a couple of people after the last Council meeting and asked if they could submit suggestions for Charter changes. They said yes. The people said they would submit the suggestions via mail to the City. He wondered how the members could receive that information. The Secretary said she would copy and forward any information received at the Administration Office pertaining to the CRC to the members.

Mr. Becker wondered how the Commission could pull the City's talents, needs, wants and recommendations. Would it happen only through the open meetings? Mayor Kernan said that it would mainly happen through the open meetings.

He requested that any suggestions or contacts from the public be recorded in the minutes. Mr. Collins stated that when he receives any comments or suggestions regarding the CRC he would forward them to the Secretary to forward to the members. He commented that he would also be forwarding his suggestions to them during their review.

Mr. Becker requested contact numbers for each member. The Secretary said she would provide each member with that information.

Mayor Kernan and Mr. Collins stated that they appreciated each member's volunteer service to Norton. They also stated that they and/or any of the staff would be available to supply any needed information or to attend any meetings. Mr. Collins said that he wanted the members to understand how the City works, because it will help them understand the Charter and what it should be achieving.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Vimont announced that their next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. With no further business coming before the Commission, Chairperson Vimont adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Barbara Vimont
Charter Review Commission Chair/Vice-Chair

Gene C. Becker
Charter Review Commission Vice-Chair/Member

3/2/06
Date

**CITY OF NORTON, OHIO
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
ATTENDANCE RECORD**

The following members were present at the Hearing of the Board of Building & Zoning Appeals,

Held on: **Wednesday, February 15, 2006**

Gene Becker	<u>Gene Becker</u>
Christopher Judge	<u>Christopher Judge</u>
Sue Ringkor	<u>Sue Ringkor</u>
Charles Campbell	<u>Charles Campbell</u> Unofficial member at this time.
Barbara Vimont	<u>Barbara Vimont</u>
Megan Booth	<u>Megan Booth</u>
Robert Daymut	<u>Robert Daymut</u>

Signed Cynthia J. Hughes
Stenographer

**Distribution: Mayor
CRC Files**

BZA.Attendance(Members & Audience)
Created: 6/00