

SAUGUS CHARTER COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
OF
JULY 24, 2008

The twenty-ninth meeting of the Saugus Charter Commission was held on Thursday, July 24, 2008. The meeting was held in the auditorium, at the Saugus Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Peter Manoogian at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Eight members of the nine member committee were present at roll call: Cam Cicolini, Karen Cote, Karla J. de Steuben, Albert W. Diotte, Jr., Joan L. Fowler, Peter Manoogian, Sr., Debra Panetta and Thomas Stewart.

Eugene Decareau was not present, but did send his ideas for the proposal (PUGH) criteria.

READING OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (JULY 10, 2008)

Minutes were distributed to all of the Commission Members to review before the next meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (JUNE 26, 2008)

Debra Panetta made a motion to accept the June 26, 2008 minutes.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **8-0**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **Communication with Marilyn Contreas**
 - Mr. Manoogian has been in contact with Marilyn Contreas of the Massachusetts Department of Community Development, who attended our January 10th meeting. When asked about putting more than one question before the voters, she replied that one town to do so was Plymouth in 1988. We heard from Wakefield that they put two charters before the voters in 1998. When Mr. Manoogian asked Ms. Contreas why, if it is the same law, can't we put more than one proposal before the voters now, her response was that the opinions of the Attorney Generals have changed over the years.
- **Communication with Richard Clark**
 - Mr. Manoogian got in touch with Kelley Gunnigan of the Springfield Office today (July 24th). Ms. Gunnigan is the Head of the Municipal Law Office that will be reviewing the Charter Commission's proposals. She informed Mr. Manoogian that, through an email, he would have to ask Richard Clark, the Chairman of the Barnstable Charter Commission, if he would like to pose the

question jointly with Saugus. Mr. Manoogian stated that he would not do so unless it was something that the Charter Commission would like to explore, and it does not have to be done right now. Mr. Manoogian just wanted to inform every one of the conversations, and stated that there is a question regarding Chapter 43B, Section 11, what the Commission has seen, and what they have heard.

- **Journey to Abilene**

- Mr. Manoogian refers the group to an item included in their packets. “The Abilene Paradox is a phenomenon in which the limits of a certain situation seem to force a group of people to act in a way that is the opposite of what they actually want. This situation can occur when groups continue with misguided activities which no group member desires, because no member is willing to raise objections or displease the others.” (*Jerry Harvey*)
- After reading an anecdote, “Journey to Abilene,” Mr. Manoogian reminds the Charter Commission members that, as important as it is to come together, it is equally as important to maintain the principles and values that each of them brings to the table.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s report was referred to the next meeting due to Treasurer Eugene Decareau’s absence.

COMMITTEE REPORT

None at this time

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Panetta presented a copy of the letter that she sent to Mr. David Hyde on July 14th, (cc: John Burke, William Hayes) expressing appreciation for Mr. Hayes facilitating the July 10, 2008 Charter Commission meeting. A copy of the letter will be on file at the Saugus Town Clerk’s Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Teamwork – Establishing criteria for evaluation of proposals

The Chairman discussed his idea of forming teams to help facilitate the PUGH Criteria.

The Clerk drew names to form teams as follows: Cam Cicolini and Karen Cote, Joan L. Fowler and Karla J. de Steuben, Peter Manoogian, Sr. and Albert W. Diotte, Jr., Debra Panetta and Thomas Stewart.

Karla J. de Steuben stated concerns about working in teams, wanting to present her own criteria and suggestions first. She thought that the Commission would be violating the Open Meeting Laws if they worked in teams.

Albert W. Diotte, Jr. voiced his thought that each member was going to present a list, and then compare them to see where the similarities and differences were.

Ms. Panetta felt comfortable working either in teams, or presenting ideas individually.

Thomas Stewart expressed his opinion that the group may benefit from hearing the un-sanitized version of each member's list.

After a brief discussion and a show of hands, it was decided that a "round-robin" brainstorming session, with Ms. Cote recording the information on the easel board, would be the best way to go.

There was a lengthy discussion on Accountability, and whether this category (or guiding principle) should be broken down into two separate categories, one for fiscal accountability and one for personal/organizational accountability. It was decided that we would split Accountability into two groups under one general category.

The Criteria Results are as follows:

- Accountability
 - Financial Accountability
 - Checks and Balances
 - Financial Responsibility
 - Minimize Budget Risks
 - Open Budget Feedback
 - Organizational (Personal) Accountability
 - Informed Decision Making
 - Effectiveness
 - Criteria for Executive
 - Policy Implementation
 - Management Responsibility
 - Efficiency and Timeliness (which could be combined with effectiveness)
- Accessibility
 - Encourage Citizen Participation
 - Equity
 - Civic Engagement
 - Improved Communication
 - Collaborative Open Government
 - Competitive Elections
 - Planning and Goal Setting
- Transparency
 - Understandable and Clear Documents
 - Decrease Conflict of Interest
 - Clarity on Policy
 - Policy Implementation
 - Improved Communication
 - Management Responsibility
 - Planning and Goal Setting
- Electoral Process
 - Continuity of Government
 - Increased Representation
 - Mix of Precinct Specific and At Large

A 10 minute recess was called after criteria had been established.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Additional details to proposals from members

Mr. Manoogian apologized for wrong information posted on the Charter Commission website. He has made corrections and posted the correct copy on our website.

Ms. Fowler stated for the record that she only has three proposals, and that two of them were the same.

Ms. Panetta passed out changes to her two proposals.

No other modifications were presented at this time.

OPEN DISCUSSION - Opportunity for individual input and observations

Karla J. de Steuben stated that she did not include Boards and Committees in her proposal because she did not have an accurate picture of who appoints / elects who. She requested that the chart that the Chairman distributed earlier in this process be updated regardless of whether they are governed by the Charter or Bylaws.

The Chairman requested that the Clerk make a note to contact Sue Dunn in the Manager's Office to get a complete list.

There was a brief discussion regarding the various proposals. Ms. de Steuben noted that there are a lot of similarities amongst the proposals if you look past the terminology and examine the structure.

The Chairman will develop and distribute a chart to start the rating process of the four categories arrived at by the Commission members prior to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Members agreed that the next meeting will be August 7, 2008, at 7:00 pm, in the Town Hall Auditorium.

MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS / MOTIONS

None at this time

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Kramich, 12 Emory Street, Saugus, thanked everyone on the Charter Commission for their hard work. He stated that if we had accountability in town, we wouldn't have trouble with the Kasabuski rink. People want transparency in their government. They want to know what's going on, and he didn't appreciate all the meetings behind closed doors in executive session. He stated that he hopes the Commission remembers nine words: "Of the people, by the people, for the people."

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Cicolini moved to adjourn at 10:32 P.M.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **8-0**

APPROVED ON _____

SUBMITTED BY _____