

Charter Review Commission  
Monday, May 13, 2019  
Council Chambers

Name	Present	Absent
Brooks Boliek	X	
Cameron Thurston	X	
Dan Alpert	X	
John Krouse	X	
Nathan Rickard	X	
Nora Eidelman	X	
Normand Bernache	X	
Peter King	X	
Ray Ranker	X	
Virdina Gibbs	X	

Also present: Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary

Mr. Thurston called the meeting to order at 7:47pm.

1. Review and approve April 29, 2019 minutes: **A motion was made by Mr. Boliek and seconded by Mr. Bernache to approve the April 29, 2019 minutes. Motion carries 10-0-0.**
2. Reviewed draft report done by Mr. Thurston and Mr. Boliek. The committee thanked Mr. Thurston and Mr. Boliek for the work they did on the report. The following are items that the group would like to have changed:
  - a. Page 2 - Delete Executive Summary and stay with Introduction. Delete paragraph 2 ("Here is a difference...") and paragraph 4 ("An attention to these dangerous..."). Move the 3rd sentence "What the Hamilton and the other founders... up to the first paragraph as the last sentence. Delete the word "the" between What and Hamilton.
  - b. Page 3 -- 4th paragraph - "While public opinion appears to favor..." - move above 3rd paragraph that begin, "In total, 92 citizens..." Rewrite the first sentence as follows: While public opinion appears to favor keeping two-year terms, our charge was to review and evaluate the length of the terms for the offices of Mayor and Councilmembers.
  - c. Page 3 - 5th paragraph - Delete the verbiage ", but did not limit itself to,"
  - d. Page 4 - paragraph after list of themes - my last name is DeWalt (capital W)
  - e. Page 5 - 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence - Delete municipal after College Park - should just end "College Park elections."
  - f. Page 5 - quote from Suchitra Balachandran -- should not be centered or in italics, just indented, single space
  - g. Page 5 - 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence - delete municipal - sentence should read "voter turnout in elections in College Park..."

- h. Page 6 - 1st graph - add to the Title - 1945 - 1995
- i. Page 6 - 2nd graph - add to the Title - 1997 - 2017
- j. Page 6 - last paragraph -- replace municipal with College Park -- sentence should read "In the last College Park elections conducted in 2017..."
- k. Page 7 - 1st paragraph - 1st sentence - replace municipal with College Park
- l. Page 7 - 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence - replace municipal with College Park
- m. Page 7 - 2nd paragraph, 1st sentence - replace municipal with College Park. Also end the sentence with a period - "has been substantial." Add the following ending sentence "This also coincides with an increase in contested elections."
- n. Page 7 - 1st sentence below graph - delete municipal
- o. Page 8 - 1st paragraph - Delete municipal in 2nd sentence and last sentence.
- p. Page 8 - 2nd paragraph, 1st sentence - delete municipal
- q. Page 8 - 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence - delete municipal
- r. Page 8 - last paragraph, delete sentence - "Professor Hajnal observes:...can move policy their way." **Also delete footnote #8**
- s. Page 10 - 1st paragraph, 1st, 2nd and 3rd sentences - Rewrite as follows: "A factor that may contribute to these results is the number of contested elections held for councilmember positions in each of these districts. Roughly eighty percent of the council elections held in Districts 1 and 3 were contested between 1991 and 2017. Thirteen out of the fourteen elections in District 1 and nine of the fourteen in District 3 were contested while less than half of the council elections held in Districts 2 and 4 were contested (six of the fourteen for both Districts 2 and 4)."
- t. Page 12 - last paragraph, 3rd sentence - Capital "C" for City of Takoma Park
- u. Page 15 - top of page (end of Section A) - final sentence inserted "The primary source of data on this issue is the City of Rockville who transitioned to four-year terms for their 2015 election."
- v. Page 15 - Section B, 1st paragraph, 2nd line - "In 2018, the City of Springfield..."
- w. Page 15 - Section B, 1st paragraph, 4th line - after footnote '25' - Replace Three years ago with "In 2016, Laurel, Maryland's..."
- x. Page 16 - Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 - make sure that the word "City" referring to each specific city has a capital "C" - i.e. the City of Greenbelt, the City of Annapolis, The City of Hyattsville
- y. Page 16 - 3rd paragraph, 4th line, 5th line, 7th line, and 9th line - take out 's from Annapolis and replace with Annapolis'
- z. Page 17 - 1st paragraph - make sure that the word "City" is capitalize for City of Hyattsville (lines 1 and 6)
- aa. Page 17 - Student Participation section - Paragraph 1, last sentence - "We also compared the City of College Park to other cities in the Big 10 Conference." delete "to see...towns do."
- bb. Page 17/18 - Student Participation section - Paragraph 2 - Delete 1st sentence. Start paragraph with and rewrite sentence as follows: "Due to the nature of the City's district set-up, student voices are split among the City's four districts. The bulk of the student population resides in District 2 and District 4, however a significant number also reside in District 3 with fewer living in District

**1. Delete the last sentence on top of page 18 "This makes it more...with one voice."**

- cc. Page 18 - 2nd paragraph, line 1 - Mayor and Council - capitalize "M" and "C"
- dd. Page 18 - 2nd paragraph, line 2 - spell out University of Maryland students (not UMD)
- ee. Chart missing from end of Student participation section.
- ff. Page 19 - top of the page paragraph, last line - delete "February"
- gg. Page 19 - 2nd paragraph, 1st line - Rewrite as follows: "The chart below reflects other cities in the Big 10 Conference..."
- hh. Page 19 - 2nd paragraph, Line 5 - spell out MD to say College Park, Maryland [you have the states spelled out elsewhere, not abbreviations]
- ii. Page 21 - Move quote "City council is freshmen politics. ... can't make a 4-year commitment." - move to Cameron's section
- jj. Page 21 - last quote - "2-year terms give a manor..." - delete this
- kk. Page 21 - rest of quotes - Peter and John will pick 2 to include
- ll. Page 23 - Continuity section - last paragraph - "Councilmember Monroe Dennis" - make Councilmember one word in 2nd and 3rd line and delete "C." from Monroe's name
- mm. Page 35 - Conclusion, 1st paragraph, 2nd line "we hope our examination will inform the Council's decision to pursue a change or leave it be."
- nn. Page 35 - Conclusion, 2nd paragraph, Rewrite as follows: "As the Commission executed its charge, a major underlying theme arose in the public debate over the length of the term of councilmembers: Will a change in terms improve accountability, voter participation, and citizen engagement in College Park?"
- oo. Page 35 - Conclusion, 3rd paragraph, line 1 - change charter to "charge"
- pp. Page 35 - Conclusion, 3rd paragraph, line 3 and line 4 - take out ; and replace with , add "and" - the districts, the timing of City election, recall elections, **and** how to engage students...
- qq. Page 36 - Conclusion, top paragraph, line 2 - delete the words "then maybe"
- rr. Page 36 - Conclusion, 2nd paragraph, line 3 - replace capable with "effective"
- ss. Pages 36-40 - Delete Federalist #53
- tt. Make percentages all the same - either spell out the number and word percentage or use numeral and % sign.
- uu. Mr. Alpert said he would put something in his final version about restricted access and difficulties in campaigning for residential candidates to students living in dorms.
- vv. Add a Table of Contents, List of Appendices
- ww. Viridinia was going to switch around her report and said she would update by Wednesday cob:
  - i. Last paragraph - delete everything except 1st sentence. Move that sentence "College Park does not currently have a recall provision." to the end of the 1st paragraph
  - ii. 5th paragraph - changed it around - start with In 2017, Bowie residents... and end with In 2018, Bowie residents...
  - iii. 4th paragraph - Divide into 2 paragraphs - start a new paragraph with the sentence beginning "A recall election is triggered in Rockville..."

- xx. Election Costs and a Consideration of Staggered Terms
  - i. page 27 - 1st paragraph, 1st sentence - add , to offset phrase - "...council needs to consider, when undertaking a policy change, is its cost..."
- 3. The committee will need to review Recall Provision, Continuity, Election Costs and a Consideration of Staggered Terms at the next meeting.
- 4. New business
  - a. All final sections of the report, in Word, should be emailed to Mr. Thurston and Mr. Boliek by May 17. The final draft of the report will be sent to the committee members by May 21.
  - b. A motion was made by Mr. Thurston to have a final meeting to review the report prior to submitting to Mayor and Council. Mr. Boliek seconded. Motion carries 10-0-0. The final meeting will be Thursday, May 23 at 7:30pm. Ms. Miller stated that she would not be present for this meeting.

Mr. Ranker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Alpert seconded. The motion carries 10-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl DeWalt, contract secretary.