

Minutes
L/A Charter Commission
July 24, 2014

Attendance: Mike Beaulieu, Gene Geiger, Lucien Gosselin, Holly Lasagna (by phone), Chip Morrison, and Chantel Pettengill.

Also Present: Clint Deschene, Tizz Crowley, Laura Forbes, Mike Marcotte, and Phil Nadeau.

1. Introductions and corrections to contact information

Commission members introduced themselves as did others who were in attendance.

2. Public Input

Tizz Crowley suggested that the Commission develop an extended e-mail list to get information to all those who are interested. Commissioners noted that we brainstormed interested groups at the last meeting.

3. Minutes of July 7, 2014 Meeting

It was moved by Gosselin, seconded by Beaulieu to accept the minutes of the July 7th meeting as presented. UNANIMOUS. It was suggested that accepted minutes be posted on-line and that draft minutes be posted with the agenda of the upcoming meeting.

4. Charter Commission Notebooks

Chip went over the contents of the charter commissioners' notebooks. Holly suggested that each agenda identify some notebook sections for review – and commissioners agreed. Tizz Crowley suggested that copies of the notebooks be placed in each library and that the contents be available on-line.

Commissioners made minor changes in their contact information which will be provided to the two cities (attached.)

5. Discussion of Planning Retreat

Commissioners discussed the input received from members on the activities to be included in the July 28th retreat which will be held from 5:30-9:30 PM at The Chamber office. Chip noted that he had contacted Rich Livingston to be the retreat facilitator. It was agreed that the retreat would start with work on process issues regarding how we work together as a team but that a substantial amount of time should be spent developing a work plan – as to how the commission will accomplish its task of putting together a recommended charter and a consolidation plan. The commission continued with a discussion of how work can be done with maximum transparency. Chip will meet with Rich Livingston to develop a retreat agenda and will e-mail it to commissioners on Monday.

6. Research on information about consolidation efforts.

It was noted that all previous consolidation efforts are chronicled on the DVD provided by Lucien to each commission member. Lucien will also give commissioners a spreadsheet listing current interlocal collaborative efforts. Topics mentioned that should be explored included:

- what other municipalities have experienced mergers (or merger efforts)
- how do municipalities deal with other types of major changes
- what can we learn from school system mergers
- what happened in the discussion of merger of the two local libraries
- look at LRTC as an example of a local merger
- check with the International City Management Association for information they have on municipal mergers
- look at Canadian examples of municipal consolidation

7. Financing Charter Commission Operations

Chip distributed copies of the registration form for a locally formed PAC, LA Together, which was filed on June 12th. The principals are Marc Roy, Anthony Ferguson, Ron Bissonnette, Donna Steckino, Peter Garcia, and Dick Gleason, all of whom served as volunteers on one or more of the past studies of local consolidation efforts.

8. Leadership of Charter Commission

After a brief discussion, Mike volunteered to prepare a description of potential officer positions.

9. Website Presence

Commission members discussed the means that they could create a web presence. One alternative could be utilizing the website of Auburn and Lewiston but it was agreed that the goal is to make it very easy for citizens to quickly get the information they are looking for about the Charter Commission's work. This might be slowed down if we utilized the websites of the cities. Phil Nadeau volunteered to check with the IT departments of the two cities and give a report to the commission. It was suggested (and agreed) that the commission should have a Face Book presence with controls so we can reach people who otherwise might not follow the Charter Commission work. Chantel volunteered to assist in establishing the Face Book presence.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Gosselin, seconded by Beaulieu to adjourn. UNANIMOUS.
The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Prepared by: Chip Morrison, Charter Commission member

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