

Minutes
Charter Review Commission
Human Services, Education, Recreation and Culture Committee
April 24, 2006

Attendance: Commissioners Donna E. Rice, Ronald Smith, Joan Lillis
Commission Analyst Hank Bromley
Absent: Commissioner Jeanne Ebersole, Commissioner George Arthur

The meeting of the Committee was called to order at 8:10 AM

Commissioner Rice introduced the committee's guest, Mr. Michael Mahaney, Director of Buffalo & Erie County Libraries.

Mr. Mahaney proceeded to explain the current funding and operations of the library and a brief history. Basically there are three pieces of legislation and rulings which govern the current library system – state legislation from 1953 which allowed Buffalo and various municipal libraries to merge to form the current system, a declaratory judgment in 1992 under state education law which established autonomy, and a local law, Library Protection Act, which dictates county funding for the libraries. Mr. Mahaney will provide copies of relevant parts of these documents for the committee.

Commissioner Rice will draft charter language concerning the library system for review at the next committee meeting.

Commissioner Rice reported that the committee's recommendations for charter language for the Health Dept., Parks Dept., Committee on Sexual Abuse, and the Committee on the Arts have been submitted to the full commission for approval.

Commissioner Smith will submit final charter language recommendations for approval for ECC at the next committee meeting

Commissioner Lillis will submit final charter language recommendations for approval for ECMCC at the next committee meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald P. Smith
Commissioner
Committee Vice Chairperson