

Minutes  
Charter Review Commission  
Human Services, Education, Recreation and Culture Committee  
April 27, 2006

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

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

Commissioner Rice introduced the committee's guest, Mr. Charles Kreiner, Chairman of the Erie County Consumer Protection Committee

Mr. Kreiner proceeded to explain the past and current operations and accomplishments of the Consumer Protection Committee. He submitted and reviewed documentation pertaining to the committee. There is currently an enthusiastic group of volunteers who populate the committee. There are no paid employees and no expenses except miscellaneous printings and gatherings. Mr. Kreiner expressed disappointment and frustration over the current administration's lack of support and interest in consumer affairs.

As a charter issue it was discussed as to the feasibility of including this committee as a division under the proposed Office of Advocacy.

Commissioner Rice submitted a draft of charter wording for a proposed Office of Public Advocacy. It was agreed to add a Division of Consumer Protection to this group. It was agreed that all organizations in the Office of Public Advocacy will be re-titled as 'Division of ...' It was agreed that the Office will be headed by a 'Director' and that each division will be headed by an 'Assistant Director'. It was agreed that wording would be included to add an advisory board to the Division of Equal Employment Opportunity. Any boards within the group will be appointed by the county manager. Commissioner Rice will make the appropriate changes for final approval at the next meeting.

Commissioner Rice submitted charter wording calling for the deletion of the Coordinating Council on Children and Families. It was moved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Arthur. It was passed.

Commissioner Arthur moved and commissioner Lillis seconded to pass the minutes of the 4/24/06 meeting after amended for spelling errors. It passed.

Commissioner Lillis submitted draft charter changes relating to ECMC and the infirmary. After discussion, it was moved (Arthur) and seconded (Smith) that Commissioner Lillis will rewrite the draft for final approval at the next meeting.

Commissioner Smith submitted new charter language referring to ECC. It was moved (Arthur) and seconded (Lillis) to submit this charter language with two corrections pertaining to audits to the full commission for approval at the next meeting.

It was determined that the committee meeting of 5/8 will change from 8 am to 10 am at 11 Summer St.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald P. Smith  
Commissioner  
Committee Vice Chairperson