

## RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, August 5, 2024 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Rondo Community Library – Community Room  
461 Dale St. N., St. Paul, MN 55103

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of August 5, 2024 Agenda
4. Approval of May 6, 2024 Minutes
5. New Business
  - a. Welcome and Introduction
  - b. Presentation: 2024 Ramsey County Legislative Session
    - o Presented by Jennifer O'Rourke, Director, Government Relations Dept.
    - o Ami Wazlawik, Government Relations Specialist, Government Relations Dept.
  - c. Onboarding Materials Discussion
    - o Presented by Stacey D'Andrea, Assistant County Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney's Office,
    - o Jason Yang, Planner, County Manager's Office
6. Committee Reports
  - a. Chair Reports – Chair Haas
  - b. Budget Committee Reports – Chair Matthew Emerson
  - c. Charter Review Committee Report – Co-Chair Matthew Emerson and Gene Nichols
  - d. Nomination Committee Report – Chair Gene Nichols
7. Citizen's Input (7:30 p.m.)
8. Adjournment
9. Future Agenda Items
  - a. Request for legal guidance regarding the sphere of influence of the Charter Commission as a group for the County Charter amendment process and overall
10. Meeting Dates and Location for 2024
  - a. October 21, 2024 – Roseville Library, Community Program Room

Attachments:

- May 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Ramsey County Legislative Update 2024 Presentation
- Charter Commission Member Roles and Responsibilities

## RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday May 6, 2024 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
 Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Drive, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109  
 Community Program Room

1. Call to Order: Chair Nancy Haas called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Roll Call Attendance: Completed by Mee Cheng

| District | Charter Commission Member      | Present                             | Excused                             | Unexcused                           |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1        | Ann Maslansky-Takahashi        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 1        | Eugene (Gene) Nichols          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2        | Lisa M. Laliberte – Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2        | John Niedfeldt-Thomas          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3        | Nancy Haas - Chair             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3        | Prince Corbett                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4        | Bethany Winkels                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4        | William (Bill) Lindeke         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5        | Jazmin Glaser-Kelly            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5        | Gloria Bogen                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 6        | Hoang Murphy                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6        | Matthew Emerson                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 7        | Jo Emerson                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 7        | William (Bill) Kempe           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| At Large | Angela (Angie) Thies           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| At Large | Jonathan (Jon) Schumacher      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| At Large | Allen Hoppe                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Guests: Mark McCabe, Director, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department

Also Present: Stacey D’Andrea, Assistant County Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney’s Office  
 Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk, Ramsey County Manager’s Office

3. Approval of May 6, 2024 Agenda: Motioned by William Kempe, and seconded by Jonathan Schumacher. Unanimously approved by all members present.
4. Approval of the February 5, 2024 Minutes: Motioned by John Niedfeldt-Thomas, and seconded by Jonathan Schumacher. Unanimously approved by all members present.

## 5. New Business

### a. Welcome and Introductions

### b. Updates on Requested Opinion of the Attorney General Presented by Rachel Tierney, Attorney, Kennedy & Graven

Rachel provided an overview of the petition and provided an update on the status of the request for an opinion from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the number of signatures needed on a petition to amend the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter (See attachment Rachel Tierney – Kennedy and Graven Memo and Attorney General Opinion). Charter Commission members were given an opportunity to discuss the opinion, asked clarifying questions, and discussed next steps.

Rachel's recommendations to the Charter Commission members were:

1. Inform the (Petition) Committee that the petition requesting the proposed Charter amendment must contain at least 15,740 signatures in order for the proposed charter amendment to be presented to voters for approval at an election.

Assuming that the petition is received, the County Manager is the office to review, and signatures have to be validated – registered and reside in Ramsey County. Under state law, the Elections Office has 10 days to verify and confirm signatures.

The Charter Commission will need to hold a special meeting to verify the petition. Assuming there is valid petition, somebody needs to write the ballot language. It can be Rachel Tierney as the outside counsel.

- Component of Ballot language: Title and body language. It needs to describe what the change will be because state law is silent on ballot language, the recommendation is to have Charter Commission and the Board adopt the ballot language.
- Report to county auditor need to be made within 74 days of an election. Assuming that the petition is received, it has to be adopted by August 23, 2024.

Motion by Bethany Winkels and seconded by William Kempe to accept the outside counsel recommendation of 5% of registered voters (15,740 signatures) of the last previous state general election in 2022. Unanimously approved by all members present.

2. Executive Committee be ready to work on drafting ballot language prior to introduction with Rachel Tierney.
  - a. Acting Executive Committee made up of Chair, Vice Chair, Jazmin Glaser-Kelly, Gloria Bogen, and Jonathan Schumacher.

Motioned by Bill Kempe, seconded by Jonathan Schumacher for the Executive Committee to meet with Rachel Tierney to draft a ballot if a valid petition is received. Unanimously approved by all members present.

- c. Presentation: Ramsey County Parks and Recreation – No Net Loss Charter Provision  
Mark McCabe, Director, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation

Mark reviewed current challenges regarding the acquisition and disposal of park property since at the time that the charter provision was amended there was not an established baseline quantity of parkland and therefore there is not a quantity of parkland to peg the “no net loss” of parkland to.

Parks & Recreation would like to establish a baseline acreage of parkland which would ensure that a set quantity of parkland would be preserved for public utilization and to listen to Charter Commission member feedback. Ultimately, in order to establish a baseline quantity of parkland acreage Parks & Recreation would need to bring forward a request for Board Action to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners for approval (See Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Presentation – No Net Loss Charter Provision attachment).

- 6. Citizen Input (7:30 p.m.)
  - a. None for input.
- 7. Committee Reports
  - a. Chair Reports – Chair Nancy Haas
    - i. No reports provided.
  - b. Budget Committee Report – Chair Matthew Emerson
    - i. Members: Angie, Bethany, Ann
    - ii. No budget report provided.
  - c. Charter Review Committee Report – Co-Chairs Matthew Emerson and Eugene Nichols
    - i. Members: Bethany, Gloria
    - ii. No Charter Review Report provided.
  - d. Nomination Committee Report – Chair Eugene Nichols
    - i. Members: Ann,
    - ii. No Nomination Committee Report provided.
- 8. Meeting Dates and Tentative Location for 2024
  - a. August 5, 2024 – Rondo Library, Community Room
  - b. October 21, 2024 – Roseville Library, Community Program Room
- 9. Future Agenda Item
  - a. Clarify and discuss sphere of influence of Charter Commission

10. Adjournment

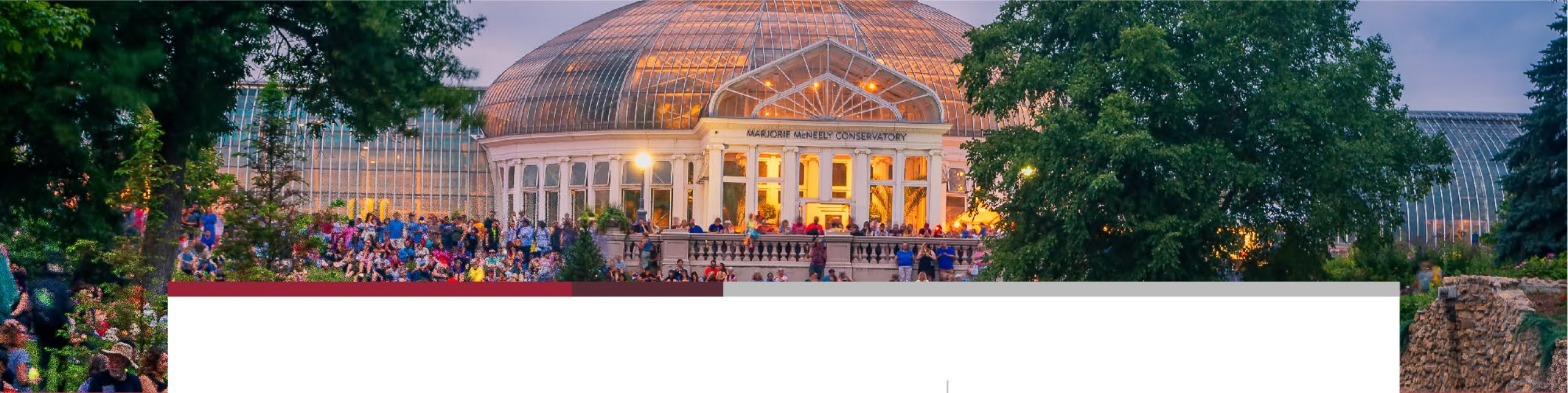
- a. Chair Nancy Haas adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

11. Attachments

- a. Rachel Tierney – Kennedy and Graven Memo
- b. Attorney General Opinion
- c. Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Presentation – No Net Loss Charter Provision

**Next Meeting: Monday August 5, 2024 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**  
Tentative Location: Rondo Library, Community Room

DRAFT



# 2024 Legislative Update Ramsey County Charter Commission

Jennifer O'Rourke – Ami Wazlawik – Jolie Wood  
Government Relations





## Setting the Stage – 2024

- 2023 had unprecedented spending, policy & pace
- 2024 - Year for a Bonding Bill
- Limited Legislative Days
- Speaker's Priorities: School Resource Officers Fix, Tax Bill Technical Fix, and Bonding Bill
- New Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy
- Mid-session upset via Senator Mitchell
- Final hours shenanigans



## Ramsey County Priorities That Passed

- \$1 million for Union Depot Passenger Rail Insurance Increases
- Statewide \$3.4 million for DHS unsheltered funding
- Tax forfeiture settlement & policy bills
- Workforce omnibus bill \$300,000 for Ramsey initiatives
- Anerobic Digester \$5 million
- African American Family Preservation Act pilot program \$2.5 million
- Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Waste

## Ramsey County Provisions that did Not Pass

- Bonding Requests, (Rice Creek Commons, Park at RiversEdge, Aldrich Arena)
- Changes to Ramsey County's HRA authority
- SNAP for Hot Meals
- Youth Mental Health Urgent Care Funding
- County program aid changes for Ramsey County
- Ramsey-specific Unsheltered Funding
- Law Library Funding Task Force
- Lead Investigation Funding

## What's Next?

- 2024 November Election
  - One Ramsey County legislator retiring (Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn)
- Senator Morrison resignation & special election
  - Creates a possibility to flip the Senate majority
- New Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris
  - Speculation around Governor Walz and possible change
- 2025 Budget Year
  - Starts later than normal: January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025
    - New Ramsey County Manager & New Ramsey County Board



# Questions?

[Jennifer.orourke@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Jennifer.orourke@co.ramsey.mn.us)

[Ami.Wazlawik@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Ami.Wazlawik@co.ramsey.mn.us)

[Jolie.wood@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Jolie.wood@co.ramsey.mn.us)

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## **ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES: RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION and its MEMBERS**

- Support “good government”, the overarching intent of the Home Rule Charter, to “...make county government more visible and responsive to the residents of the county and to provide ways to make county government more flexible and efficient in addressing the needs of county residents.”
- Have an interest in learning about and discussion of Ramsey County
- Recognize the roles of elected officials vs those of Charter Commission Members
  - Charter Commission Members are appointed by the District Court
  - County Commissioners, Attorney, and Sheriff are elected by the citizens
  - the Charter provides the mechanisms for elected County Commissioners to make the policy decisions
  - the Charter provides the mechanisms for professional staff to design, develop, and deliver services for the citizens of the County
- Periodically review the Charter
- Propose any necessary amendments to the Home Rule Charter
- Oversee the amendment process including
  - Review of any proposed amendments
  - Declare the sufficiency of a petition
  - Prepare a summary of any proposed amendment
  - Recommend any necessary revisions to proposed amendments
  - Submit proposed amendments to an election
- Attend all meetings of the Ramsey County Charter Commission
- Prepare for meetings by reading supplied documents prior to the meeting
- Notify Chief Clerk staff if unable to attend a meeting
  - Chief Clerk phone: 651-266-9200
  - Chief Clerk email: [chiefclerk@ramseycounty.us](mailto:chiefclerk@ramseycounty.us)