

City of Kent Charter Review Commission Meeting

319 S. Water St., Kent, Ohio 44240

June 10, 2025

MINUTES

Prepared from video recording

Present: Jason Gartland; Tom Mahon; Dawn Albright; Barb Hipsman-Springer; Julie Hurd-Schmidt; Craig Berger; Jeff Roeger; Don Schjeldahl; Jasmine Jefferson;; Adam Stephens; Brian Bialik; Todd Milton; Emma Kelly; Kai Carpenter; Darlene Rocco

Also Present: Hope Jones, Law Director; Roger Sidoti, Council-at-Large

- Adam called the meeting to order.
- Motion to approve minutes from 5/27/25 meeting was made by Brian; seconded by Barb and carried by unanimous voice vote.
- The commissioners reviewed Articles VII-XII. Discussion included:

Article VII – Boards and Commissions

8.03 Park and Recreation Board

Roger Sidoti explained to the commission that there is a widely held misbelief that Parks and Recreation is separate from the City, but in fact it is not. He suggested providing clarity in the Charter to help dispel that misbelief. Hope will develop some language.

8.07 Charter Review

Discussion included specifying a diverse demographic for Charter Review commission; changing membership from 15 to 9 members; and holding charter review every 5 years instead of ten. Note was made that operational items can be suggested along with suggested amendments, but should not be part of the amendment itself.

Straw poll: Include aspiration for the commission to include a cross section of the population; change membership to 9; and hold charter review every 5 years.

MAJORITY: YES

Article IX – Elections

9.02 General Laws to Apply

All elections non-partisan: discussion around process involved, other municipalities who conduct non-partisan elections, and general support for the idea of reflecting local concerns rather than national politics.

Straw poll: Change 9.02 to state that elections in the City of Kent will be non-partisan. MAJORITY: YES

Article XII – Miscellaneous

12.03 Rearrangement and Reprinting of Charter

Discussion regarding wording, adding notes to end. Discussion about the power of law director/council vs. the voters. Will continue to work on.

Straw poll: Replace 12.03 with alternative wording TBD. Majority: YES

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

The next meeting will be held on June 17, 2025 at 6:00pm at City Hall.