

**APPROVED**  
**CITY OF LINO LAKES**  
**CHARTER COMMISSION**

**DATE** May 19, 2016  
**TIME STARTED** 6:30 p.m.  
**TIME ENDED** 7:49 p.m.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT** Aldentaler, Bretoi, Dahl, Damiani, Devaney, Johnson  
(arrived at 7:00 p.m.), Juni, Stanek, Storberg, Stranik,  
and Vanderpoel  
**MEMBERS EXCUSED** Combs, Lyden, Poehling, Turcotte  
**MEMBERS UNEXCUSED** None  
**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT** None  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Julie Pearson

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Dahl reconvened the meeting of the Lino Lakes Charter Commission at 6:35 pm on May 19, 2016.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Dahl lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SETTING THE AGENDA**

Agenda was accepted as presented without additions

**PROPOSED CHARTER WARD AMENDMENT, AMENDING SECTION 2.03.**  
**COUNCIL COMPOSITION AND ELECTION, RELATING TO CITY WARDS**

**A. Discussion on Comments from City Attorney Mr. Langel**

Chair Dahl stated that originally she was under the impression that Mr. Kaardal would be attending the meeting tonight but noted that she received some information via email from him prior to the meeting. She distributed the information to the Commission.

Commissioner Stranik stated that the Council recommendation would appear to be the easiest method to amend the Charter and asked if it would make sense to go to a Council meeting to open the conversation. He stated that perhaps a simple majority of the Council would be in favor of wards and therefore the amendment could go forward in that method rather than follow the costly process to amend the Charter outside of that option.

Commissioner Devaney stated that there was a discussion at the Council worksession at which the question of the Commission obtaining help from the League of Minnesota Cities was discussed and two of the Councilmembers were very vocal about their opposition to wards. He noted that he himself is not sure whether he would vote to support wards but believed the item should be placed on the ballot for voters to choose.

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Commissioner Bretoi stated that he would be open to that option if there was more time but noted that if this item is going to go to ballot the Commission needs to continue to move forward.

Commissioner Stranik stated that there would need to be an advocate on the Council and noted that he was not certain whether there would be such a person on the Council.

Commissioner Bretoi noted that the Commission attempted to do that the previous year and the Council stalled until the point where the Commission did not have sufficient time to get the item onto the ballot. He stated that he would not want to miss another opportunity.

Chair Dahl agreed that she would not want to have the Council delay and the Commission miss another opportunity to place the item on the ballot.

Commissioner Juni stated that from the response from the City Council he would believe that the Council would be open to continuing the discussion.

Commissioner Damiani stated that the Commission should just get things in order to place on the ballot rather than wait around for responses and opinions of the Council.

Commissioner Vanderpoel stated that the decision on whether or not to have wards is not up to the Commission or the Council and is the decision of the people of Lino Lakes. He suggested that the Commission follow the steps for approval by election so that the residents can make the choice.

Commissioner Bretoi stated that he would want to see additional language that would restrict someone from drawing boundaries that would have self-serving purpose. He stated that he would like to see enough restrictions so that members of the Council cannot be excluded or included and it should be done in a fair manner.

Commissioner Devaney stated that he was impressed with the willingness of Mr. Langel to provide the Commission with the information they would need to continue to move this forward.

Commissioner Devaney stated that there is language included in the proposed amendment which would include sufficient restriction in creating boundaries.

Commissioner Storberg stated that her concern would be that people would not understand this if the item were placed on the ballot.

Commissioner Stranik referenced the process to follow for approval by election, specifically the third bullet point regarding legal. He asked for clarification on how the change would be implemented.

It was explained that beginning in 2017, the Councilmembers would be at-large and when each term came up for re-election the ward system would come into play.

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92 Commissioner Stranik stated that he would like additional information from Mr. Langel on how  
93 the implementation would apply.

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95 Commissioner Devaney stated that he would suggest moving this forward to the City Council  
96 and Mr. Langel.

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98 Commissioner Bretoi noted that the comments from the Council were already received from the  
99 submission the previous year and those are the responses that Mr. Kaardal responded to when  
100 making the updates to ensure the language is compliant with State statute.

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102 MOTION by Commissioner Devaney, seconded by Commissioner Stanek, requesting to move  
103 forward the amended language to the City Council for review.

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105 Further discussion: Commissioner Vanderpoel suggested that the memorandum letter be  
106 submitted with the new draft amendment.

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108 It was the consensus of the Commission that the memorandum letter be included with the new  
109 draft amendment.

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111 Commissioner Bretoi stated that the Commission could have Mr. Kaardal draft the language  
112 proposed to be on the ballot and that could be forwarded to the Council. He asked that the  
113 motion be amended to submit a version consistent with number one from Mr. Langel,  
114 specifically the redline copy.

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116 The amended MOTION accepted by Commissioner Devaney, seconded by Commissioner  
117 Stanek, requesting to move forward the memorandum letter and the new draft amendment,  
118 amended to be a redline version consistent with number one of Mr. Langel's memorandum.

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120 It was determined that the Commission would ask Mr. Kaardal to draft the redline version for  
121 submission to the City Council and Mr. Langel.

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123 Commissioner Bretoi called the vote to question.

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125 Motion passed unanimously.

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127 Motion passed unanimously.

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129 MOTION by Commissioner Bretoi, seconded by Commissioner Damiani, requesting to ask Mr.  
130 Kaardal to draft the redline version of the draft amendment, as long as the service is within the  
131 original \$500 budget approved for Mr. Kaardal.

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133 Motion passed unanimously.

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135 **NEXT MEETING DATE**

136 Chair Dahl noted the next meeting date is Thursday, July 14, 2016. She stated that an additional  
137 meeting may be needed between now and that time depending upon the response received from  
138 the Council and Mr. Langel. She stated that if another meeting is needed she would send out an  
139 email to coordinate the most convenient date for the group.

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141 Commissioner Bretoi stated that the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting may not be needed if the response from the  
142 Council does not call for a special meeting.

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144 It was the consensus of the Commission that a deadline should be placed on the response from  
145 the Council to ensure a timely review.

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147 It was the consensus of the Commission to schedule a potential special meeting for June 16<sup>th</sup>,  
148 should that be needed. It was also decided that the information submitted to the Council shall  
149 have a deadline for response prior to that potential meeting date.

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151 **OTHER**

152 Julie Pearson asked what would happen if the ward system is implemented and asked what  
153 would occur if no one from the open ward wished to run for the position.

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155 Chair Dahl stated that in the case of the Commission the current Commissioners remains on the  
156 Commission until the position is filled.

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158 Ms. Pearson stated that while she likes the idea of wards she was unsure that enough people  
159 would want to run for the position.

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161 Commissioner Stranik stated that the ward system usually encourages more participation and  
162 interest.

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164 Chair Dahl agreed that the ward system is less costly for the people campaigning.

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166 Commissioner Johnson stated that if no one was interested in running he believed that someone  
167 would step up and run.

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169 Commissioner Juni stated that residents of each ward can encourage and support people to run  
170 that they believe would appropriately represent their ward.

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172 Commissioner Damiani noted that people could possibly be more encouraged to vote in the  
173 election since they may actually know the person running.

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175 **ADJOURN**

176 MOTION by Commissioner Devaney, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to adjourn the  
177 meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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179 Drafted by: Amanda Staple, *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*