

**Minutes - June 28, 2012**  
**Ad Hoc Home Rule Study Committee**

The Ad Hoc Home Rule Study Committee held an organizational meeting in Conference Room C of the Municipal Building. Members present included: Geoff Hurd, Kevin Kearns, Mary Larsen, Nancy Carroll, Chris Cahillane, and Bradley Kitlowski. Bill Matthews also participated via a conference telephone. Municipal Manager Steve Feller, who will be serving as staff liaison for the group, also attended the meeting.

Steve Feller thanked the members for volunteering their time and expertise by serving on the group. He explained that the Commission would like the group to conduct a comprehensive review of the Charter and make recommendations in writing to the Commission on any changes that should be made to the Charter. The final product should be a report that lays out the process followed, major issues, and recommended changes. The term of the Committee members ends on May 31, 2013. The meetings of the Committee will be public and the Municipality will advertise the meetings in the paper and on the web site and conduct the sessions in public. The Commission would like the work of the Committee to be as inclusive as possible. The public information office will be available to help promote the meetings and solicit public input. The Committee members previously received a packet of materials that included a full copy of the Charter, information concerning home rule laws in Pennsylvania, and reports from prior review efforts conducted in 1988 and 1994.

There was a good deal of discussion about the best way to approach the task. The Committee decided that they would like a section by section review of the document, and asked staff to prepare some logical grouping of topics to make the task manageable and better understood by the public. The consensus of the group was that the first step should be to meet with the Solicitor to better understand the legal issues and also review a list of possible changes that is to be prepared by the staff. The Committee anticipates a process that would include both "focus groups" of invited Community representatives and also a "town hall" type meeting for all interested residents. The Committee also anticipates a mid-term meeting with the Commission to ensure that they are moving in the right direction. They also asked if the Commission could appoint a liaison to periodically attend Committee meetings and then report back to the entire Commission.

Bill Matthews was elected Chair of the Committee and Mary Larsen was elected Vice-Chair. The Municipal Manager or his designee will keep meeting notes/minutes. The Committee asked the Municipal Manager for the following information prior to the next meeting:

- Invite the Solicitor to attend the next meeting to review the legal issues
- Distribute a copy to all members in a Word format
- Prepare a staff list of potential items in the Charter that may be adjusted
- Prepare a grouping of Charter sections that would provide for an efficient review schedule

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.