

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
on Revising Council Rules
May 24, 2010

Members: Diana Colavecchio, Chair
Kathy Hummel
Carol Klinger

Mrs. Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. All members were present.

Mrs. Colavecchio stated this would be the last discussion on the final draft. The next discussion will be each member of the Committee explaining to the rest of Council the parts they redrafted. She has already sent an e-mail to Administration about the implementation of the new rule regarding distribution of handouts (12 copies for Council and 2 for the floor). She has not yet spoken with John Konich regarding audio/visual needs. With regard to the final draft document before the Committee, she had marked some typos but had nothing substantive to add.

Organization

Mrs. Hummel had a question on the first page in Section 1.12 regarding Seating. It states that “[p]rior to calling the meeting to order, seating should be designated by name placard placement *in such a way as to avoid unnecessary controversy and minimal disruption.*” She felt it sounded like Council was expecting controversy and wondered if those words were really necessary. All members agreed and decided to just place a period after the word “placement.” In Section 1.31 entitled “Election of President, Mrs. Hummel stated the word “then” at the beginning of the section needed to be deleted. In Section 1.32, the word “of” should be deleted near the end and it should just read “recording the proceedings.” Her next question was in Section 1.4 on Committee-on-Committees and Seating. Mrs. Colavecchio stated there had been discussion at an earlier meeting about why the Committee-on-Committees left the room for its meeting. It was felt that perhaps the Committee should stay in the room and have its discussion at the rail and then bring the seating and committee assignments out for a vote from the rail. Ms. Jones added that if it is decided before the meeting, it could be a violation of the Sunshine Law. Mrs. Colavecchio stated it is no different than recommendations from the Mayor on board appointments. Mrs. Hummel stated the majority party has always typically decided these matters. Mrs. Colavecchio was not clear why it would be a violation to leave the room since it is not legislation and there is nothing pending. Ms. Jones stated Mrs. Colavecchio may be right. Assigning seats does not rise to the definition of the type of public work addressed under the Sunshine Law. It may not need to be an open discussion. Mrs. Colavecchio stated she was having trouble determining why people went outside in the beginning. Mrs. Klinger stated, before the Sunshine law, it was to give the illusion that there was actually a discussion. Mrs. Hummel added that the majority party members would have the paper with the assignments and then give it to the minor member. Mrs. Klinger pointed out that various groups could form alliances so those who think they are in control are not and something occurs that they do not anticipate. Mrs. Colavecchio agreed, especially if all 11 Council members were Democrat and they thought they were electing person “A.” Neither Mrs. Klinger nor Ms. Jones saw anything wrong with the discussion happening from the rail. Mrs. Colavecchio agreed. Mrs. Hummel pointed out that this same discussion is liable to occur in Council because it is a change from what has always been done in the past. She thinks it is o.k. this way.

Meetings

Mrs. Hummel had a correction of a typo in item (5) in Section 3.5. The word after “confidential” should be “be” instead of “by.”

Committees

In 5.9, regarding Legislation Held in Committee over 70 days, the word “lease” should be “least” in the second line.

Legislation

In Section 6.1, in the second sentence, the phrase “Director of Law or assistant shall review...”, she asked whether it should be Deputy Law Director instead of assistant. Ms. Jones stated there may be a time when they may not have a Deputy Law Director.

Membership

In Section 8.2 regarding Resignations, she thought it had been agreed it would be in writing. She felt it should read “shall be presented to the Clerk of Council in writing and shall include...” The next sentence states that the clerk would then “introduce” it. She felt the better term would be “announce.” Mrs. Klinger wondered if someone presented it during a Council meeting, if that would handle it. Mrs. Colavecchio stated if the resignation is just sent in, Council may never hear it announced. She wondered if the phrase “unless orally announced by the resigning Council member” should be added at the beginning of the second sentence.

Mrs. Hummel also stated the section numbering needed to be made uniform throughout the document.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.