

**Albany County Charter Revision Committee**  
**Meeting Four: March 13, 2013**

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Members Present

Robert Batsen  
Henry Greenberg, Chairman  
Antonio "Tony" Cortes  
Jacob Crawford  
Chris Hanifin  
Michael Elmendorf  
Willow Baer  
William Smith, new member

Henry Greenberg called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Chairman of the Legislature Morse, County Director of Operations Fischer, County Attorney Marcelle, Assistant County Attorney Collins, and Dept. of General Services Commissioner John Evers were in attendance.

Chairman Morse started off the meeting by informing the Committee that he has appointed Henry Greenberg as the Committee Chair. Chairman Morse mentioned that he has the power according to the Charter and the Legislative Rules. On the request of Mr. Hanifin, Mr. Collins will be putting this opinion into writing for the next Committee meeting. Chairman Morse mentioned that he trusts Mr. Greenberg in providing the leadership needed to get the work of the Committee done in a timely and adequate manner. Chairman Morse also welcomed William Smith, who he has appointed to fill the vacancy left by Mary Ann Kentoffio.

Mr. Greenberg was thankful for the appointment and presided over the meeting. Mr. Greenberg motioned to extend the deadline of the Committee's report to December 31, 2013, motion seconded by Michael Elmendorf. All voted in favor. The Committee also approved the minutes from previous meeting.

The Committee discussed the need for a Vice Chair and Secretary to ensure that future meetings are organized. Mr. Greenberg wanted to ensure that the leadership of the committee be competent and diverse in order to be representative of the county. Mr. Greenberg nominated Willow Baer as Vice Chair, and Chris Hanifin as Secretary. Chris Hanifin was honored to be nominated; however, he was unable to confirm whether he could accept the position at the moment because of his current obligations with the U.S. Army reserves. Willow Baer accepted her nomination as Vice Chair, motion seconded by Jacob Crawford. All voted in favor. Willow Baer elected Committee Vice Chair.

Mr. Bradley Fischer spoke about the creation of the Charter Commission's website, which is part of the Albany County website. The website includes a mission statement, personal information, schedule of the meetings, minutes, and will be accessible to the public.

County Attorney Marcelle made a presentation on the structure of the County government. Mr. Marcelle discussed the responsibilities of each county department, the County Executive, and the County Legislature. Mr. Marcelle also discussed how the charter is used by the various government entities, and the interplay between them. Mr. Marcelle opined that there are certain areas worth studying such as the need for an appellate public defender. Michael Elmendorf questioned whether there was any language in the charter that was outdated and could be removed. Mr. Marcelle confirmed that there was, and Mr. Collins would assist with this task.

Chairman Morse and Mr. Marcelle left the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m.

The Committee discussed breaking down Articles 7 – 28 by County Department function, and interviewing the Commissioners of each function to get their opinions on problems with the County Charter. The Committee desires to meet with Commissioners from Public Safety in the next meeting.

Robert Batson mentioned that he will review the provisions of other County Charters in New York to determine if they should be considered for inclusion in the Albany County Charter.

The Committee discussed putting together an action plan in the next meeting for next 8 – 9 months. Henry Greenberg proposed that the Committee meet every 2 weeks to ensure that work is progressing.

Henry Greenberg moved to adjourn at 8:30. Motion seconded by Willow Baer. All in favor. Meeting concluded.

***Next Committee meeting on March 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at 112 State Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor.***