

CHARTER REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA

Old City Hall

315 E Kennedy Blvd.

Tampa, Florida 33602

MINUTES FOR MEETING ON: June 23, 2026, AT 6:04 P.M.

The Charter Review Advisory Commission (CRC) of the City of Tampa, Florida convened in a regular meeting in the Sister Cities Room at Old City Hall, 315 E. Kennedy Boulevard, First Floor, at 6:04 p.m. on the 23rd day of June 2026. The Zoom meeting was live streamed and recorded, and available on YouTube and minutes were prepared by Dharsh Saravana, City Council/City Clerk Support Specialist, Office of the City Clerk.

Members present upon roll call: Stephen Benson (late arrival), Garrett Greco, Bobby Creighton, Ashley Morrow, Rebecca Kert, Alan Cohn, Kathleen Shanahan (virtual), Bill Schifino, Ron Christaldi (virtual), Alison (late arrival) Hewitt, and Sue Carlton.

City Staff in attendance were Gavin Barrera, T&I Support Technician, Marley Wilkes, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Mayor, and Dharsh Saravana, City Council/City Clerk Support Specialist.

Others in attendance were CRC Facilitator Robert Hendrickson and CRC Attorney Kenneth Tinkler of Carlton Fields.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of 6/09/26 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ashley Morrow asked for motion to approve minutes.

MOTION (Creighton/Greco) to adopt the June 09, 2026, CRC Minutes. Motion carried unanimously with Benson absent at vote.

Guest Speaker Julia Mandell, Hillsborough County Attorney

Facilitator Robert Hendrickson introduced County Attorney Julia Mandell, who attended the meeting in her private capacity. Ms. Mandell shared her professional background, clarified the strictly quasi-judicial nature of zoning decisions, and highlighted the structural differences between the county's and city's current processes. Ms. Mandell also answered inquiries regarding the scope of a zoning hearing officer's duties, the progression from a hearing officer's review to the City Council if implemented in the charter, and the benefits of adopting an interim review body, which is now common practice amongst other municipalities. She encouraged the CRC to consider implementing an interim review body as it produces

legally defensible decisions. At the conclusion, the Facilitator and CRC members thanked Ms. Mandell for her presentation.

Review Potential Amendments to the Tampa City Charter (Sections 6.03, 10.06, 10.10, 11.03)

The Facilitator led the CRC through a review of sections 6.03, 10.06, 10.10, and 11.03. The facilitator with respect to section 6.03 confirmed that there are no pending action items and with respect to sections 10.06, 10.10, and 11.03 presented the proposed charter language changes drafted by the CRC attorney.

MOTION (Cohn/Benson) to accept the three recommended changes to sections 10.06, 10.10, and 11.03 as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

For all sections, the Facilitator utilized a whiteboard to take notes covering recommended changes and items requiring clarification, and action items for follow-up. Attached to the minutes are Exhibits A and B.

Discussion

The CRC discussed and expressed their views regarding the appropriate charter language required to establish an interim review function for zoning hearings. The members requested the CRC attorney to draft two versions of charter language, one broad and a second more prescriptive.. The CRC also revisited the topic of establishing an independent ethics complaints body within the charter. The members reviewed the city's response to their previous inquiry and requested additional information, including an overview of existing regulatory protections and the specific job descriptions of current municipal personnel, such as internal auditors, who manage these matters. The CRC attorney supplemented the discussion by presenting language from other municipalities' charters.

The Facilitator provided a recap regarding the charter action items, and how the CRC is progressing with its review.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Creighton/Schifino): There being no further business to come before the Charter Review Commission at this time, upon no objection, CRC Chair Ashley Morrow adjourned said meeting at 8:10 p.m., on this the 23rd day of June 2026.

Minutes Approved by CRC on 7/15/2026
Chairperson Ashley Morrow

Discussion

↳ Zoning / Process / Interim
Role 1/1/4
hearing master

- Process is broken today/
Can be improved
- Can be a lot of Δ s between 1st + 2nd readings
- * Ken to draft two options for charter changes w/ more info.
 - interim review would likely reduce Δ s
 -

Ashley and on-time projects

- ↳ perhaps check-ins v same budget year
- ↳ next mtg will revisit

IF/ethics PC

- a lot of investigation-based discussion
- typically IBs are appointed
- Can involve committees
- charter or ordinance?

IG / Ethics cont.

- Best to have HE involved?
- Details hbd on how a separate group would work
- Appetite for this by CC + Mayor?
- Protects from future issues?
- 6 in favor of contin's
- * Ken to explain operating models for cities w/ IF language
- * Find out if city has a compliance officer + job desc
- * W/ job description internal auditor
- * Are there allegations of fraud/Wast/abuse who investigates

6.03 - No Δs

charter Δs
 10.06 → X ok/approved
 10.10 → Δ ok/approved
 11.03 → Δ ok