

Addenda
Minnetonka City Council Meeting
Meeting of July 27, 2020

ITEM 8 – Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters Not on the Agenda

The attached emails from residents were received after the deadline to sign up to participate in the meeting.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | eminnetonka.com

TO: City Council
FROM: Geralyn Barone, City Manager
DATE: July 27, 2020
SUBJECT: Change Memo for July 27, 2020

ITEM 8 – Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters Not on the Agenda

The attached emails from residents were received after the deadline to sign up to participate in the meeting.

From: [Diana Klein](#)
To: [Kyle Salage](#)
Subject: Comments for tonight's 7/27 City Council Meeting re: RCV
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 3:57:49 PM

Kyle, Thank you for the opportunity to send in comments for the record of this evening's City Council Meeting.

Dear City Council,
I became aware of something rotten last week, and I'd like to make a plea to the City Council to take action to ensure democracy in our City prevails.

It appears that the City's Charter commission is employing stall tactics to prevent the issue of Ranked Choice Voting from appearing on November's ballot. I feel this way because the Commission has been studying RCV for many months, have had at least two public hearings of opinion, have received multiple letters and emails from citizens, and a City poll was conducted to gauge public interest. The amount of processing details and data on this issue has been exhaustive, yet they still do not have enough information to make a recommendation to you, our elected officials. It's clear from hearing some Commission members speak at the Virtual Commission meeting held earlier in July that there is some personal bias against RCV. To which I would say, everyone is entitled to their opinion -- I would just remind them that their purpose on the Charter Commission is to "represent citizen viewpoints" which I think is at stake here.

Whether their recommendation was Yes or No, it could have been up to our Elected City Council to move this forward, or not. As it stands, they are employing a loophole to maneuver the outcome.

I urge you to find a way to do the right thing for the citizens of Minnetonka, and let them decide in November if this is a voting methodology that should be employed.

RCV is a legal, efficient, practical way to ensure that candidates with more than 50% of the vote get elected to office. It's used in many other communities around the country. Let's enable Minnetonka to be a leader, not cling to an antiquated method of voting because a few unelected officials have a personal bias.

A tremendous amount of thanks to you for your service,

Diana Klein
3610 Druid Lane

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Thanks! *´¨)
(. . . . *´¨) . . . *´¨)
Diana (. * * [REDACTED] *´¨)

From: [Jon Kemnitz](#)
To: [Kyle Salage](#)
Subject: Citizen input for 7/27/2020 council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 4:28:32 PM

27 July, 2020

Dear Minnetonka City Council,

I would like to submit my input regarding the Ranked Choice Voting decision to the council meeting that will be held this evening, since I am unable to call in person during the meeting.

Two weeks ago I submitted my input regarding RCV in writing and listened in on the telephone call of the committee proceedings. I also read many of the written submissions provided by other residents (and a few non-residents.) Now I am hearing that there are concerns about the legitimacy of some of the input. Please be assured that I really am a Minnetonka resident and that I am strongly in favor of Minnetonka adopting RCV as soon as is practical. For some people, the current system is perfectly adequate and I can understand why they would not be in favor of a change. But for me and many others, the current system is a big problem. Since I am not a supporter of any one particular party, I don't participate in the traditional primary system. And in the elections, I am torn between voting for my preferred candidate and one of the leading candidates that has a better chance of winning. RCV will let me vote the way I want, without being detrimental to other voters.

It seems like the RCV charter commission is not in agreement with the voice of the people. All I can say is that I strongly support RCV (and have wanted it for decades) and am eager to begin using it as soon as possible. Please consider the voice of the people, which thus far seems to quite clearly favor RCV.

Thank you,

Jon Kemnitz
5732 Holiday Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345

From: [Jennifer Johnson](#)
To: [Kyle Salage](#)
Subject: Comments for Council Meeting 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 4:54:03 PM

I would like my comments added to the Council Meeting agenda for tonight. I am dismayed to learn that the charter commission is delaying their decision about the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) item for the November election ballot in Minnetonka. There is ample evidence of what Minnetonka residents want, and further delay in the process can only mean that RCV will be denied inclusion on the November ballot, in opposition to what Minnetonka residents want.

Here are the reasons that I, and a majority of Minnetonka residents, support Ranked Choice Voting.

RCV will eliminate the cost of the low-turnout primary election in August. Because the general election in November has a much greater turnout, more candidates will be able to run, voters will have greater choice, and more ideas will be brought to the city. Many Minnetonkans simply don't take time to vote in August because they are busy with vacations, school sports, and other concerns. This year in particular, with a pandemic going on, I have doubts we will even get a 4% turnout (which is dismal). In addition, many people believe their votes don't count in the primary because so little attention is given to the election and not enough information is made available, so that they can make an informed decision. They end up waiting to vote in November, when it seems more important to take the time, but then they have only 2 candidates to choose from. Just 4% of the electorate vote in August and they get to decide which candidates go on. With Ranked Choice Voting, we eliminate the cost of having an August primary. Voters will get more information about candidates and can choose more of the candidates, ranking them according to how closely they represent the voter's views and priorities. In that way, a voter may not get their first choice of candidate, but their second choice may prevail, so that the views of the elected will more closely align with the voters.

In any case, the voters of the city should get to decide WHETHER we want RCV, by putting it on the November ballot. The residents of Minnetonka should decide how elections are conducted in our city.

WHY is the commission allowed to decide what goes on the ballot? The commission was not elected by the people of Minnetonka. The VOTERS and the COUNCIL should get to decide. The people have already spoken and we want it on the ballot. A survey was conducted showing overwhelming support for RCV to be on the ballot, and recent meetings with public comments also revealed a majority of residents support RCV. I participated in a call recently and waited for over a half hour to speak. In that time period, about 50 people gave their views, with the overwhelming majority in support of RCV.

Please eliminate further delays. If Ranked Choice Voting is not added to the ballot, residents will know that the city of Minnetonka isn't led in a democratic fashion, by the people, but rather the views of a small number of unelected commissioners are able to decide how the city is run.

Thank You!

Jennifer Johnson
18810 Kingswood Terrace
Minnetonka, MN 55345