

Brooklyn Park Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Present: Chair Dennis Secara, Commissioners Barbara Bor, Shamara Freeman Amy Hanson, Peggy Larkin, Susan Maberera, LaDawn Severin; Paula Weakly; and Staff Liaison Jennifer Gooden.

Absent: Gregory Szach (excused), Sheldon Williams (excused), Sunday Alabi, Council Liaison Nichole Klonowski and Alt Council Liaison Xiong.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. Additions/Approval of the Agenda of June 11, 2025 – None.

Motion Commissioner Bor, Second Commissioner Larkin to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 May 14, 2025, MEETING

Chair Secara asked the Commissioners if there were any substantial changes to the minutes.

Commissioner Hanson reported a correction to the motion to increase the Council Member's compensation salary by 3% effective January 2027. The minutes stated that it passed unanimously. She stated that she voted no. Note: The correction was made to the May 14, 2025, minutes.

Motion Chair Secara, Second Commissioner Hanson to approve May 14, 2025, meeting minutes with corrections. The motion passed.

5. Old Business – None.

6. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees – None.

7. New Business

7.1 City Manager's Population Report

7.1A MEMO FROM GIS & DATA ANALYSIS COORDINATOR JOHN NERGE RE: 2024 POPOULATION ESTIMATES

Chair Secara reported that the City's charter requires that population estimates by the City Council District be provided to the Charter Commission in odd-numbered years. GIS and Data Analysis Coordinator Nerge provided the Commission with a population estimate for 2024 to be 86,266. He reported that the 2020 Census population estimate was 84,266.

Chair Secara reported that the Central District of Brooklyn Park continues to develop and grow, and the East and West District are shrinking somewhat. He stated that there will be new development occurring with the Bio Tech district and development of new homes.

7.1B DISTRICT POPULATION ESTIMATES AND DISTRICT DEVIATION

PERCENTAGES

Chair Secara reported that state law requires that the three districts be balanced with equal population numbers. He stated that the City Charter allows for the five percent deviation for the Brooklyn Park City Council Districts. He reported that the Charter states that if there is a greater than five percent deviation, redistricting would be required. He reported that the District population deviations are all under five percent.

7.1C CITY CHARTER SECTION 2.04, DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTINGS PROCEDURES

Chair Secara stated that the City Charter Section 2.04, explains Districts and redistricting procedures.

7.1D 2024 COUNCIL DISTRICTS, PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES MAP

Chair Secara provided the Commission with the current Council Districts, Precincts and polling places for 2024.

Commissioner Bor stated that with the last redistricting that was completed, caused a shift to city council member representation. She stated that the Charter allows a Council Member to complete their term in the current district that they are representing should there be a change.

Chair Secara reported that with the 2022 redistricting, the Commission tried to respect the political boundaries and school districts. He stated that the outcome was equitable.

Chair Secara asked the Commission if they felt new redistricting was necessary at this time. He stated that if any changes were made, they would be effective for the 2026 election year.

Commissioner Larkin stated that she did not think redistricting was needed at this time.

The Commission was unanimous on the decision not to proceed with any redistricting based on the estimated population number provided to them.

Commissioner Bor inquired if a motion was needed and if not, it should be noted on the work plan as completed.

Chair Secara stated that he would see that it marked completed. He stated that the City Manager report will be in 2027, and Census population report will be available in 2030. He stated that at time, adjustments to the Central district might be necessary depending on the five percent deviation. He stated that the East District possibly change which could be minor impacting only one voting precinct.

7.1E EMAIL FROM GIS & DATA ANALYSIS COORDINATOR JOHN NERGE, RE: MET COUNCIL POPULATION ESTIMATES

Chair Secara provided data from Metropolitan Council on the population estimated based on their methods for tracking housing units and household data.

8. Correspondence/Communications

8.1 Council Liaison Update – None.

8.2 Public Hearing and First Reading Amendments to Sections 2.06 and 4.03

Chair Secara stated that the amendments were not able to be presented to the Council for a second reading as there were not enough Council Members present at the City Council meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025. He reported that the amendment items will be placed on June 23, 2025, City Council agenda.

9. Adjournment

**Motion Chair Secara, second by Commissioner Hanson to adjourn the meeting.
The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gooden
Staff Liaison