

March 25, 2019

Dear Detroit citizens,

Several residents have questioned whether the movement of the March 23rd to March 30th meeting was proper.

Upon receipt of these questions, I sought an opinion from the independent third-party parliamentarian who has been training and advising this commission since December. The parliamentarian advised us that:

1. The motion to change the meeting from March 23 to March 30 was appropriate and not improper. Per Roberts Rules, a motion may be renewed when there is no affirmative decision in existence to conflict with such motion. Because the motion to move the meeting on February 23 was rejected, there was no adopted motion (rejection is the absence of a motion) to conflict with the renewal of motion on March 12.
2. The motion to change the meeting from March 23 to March 30 was adopted by the majority of Commissioners at a meeting where there was a quorum and remains a valid decision.
3. The adoption of the motion to change the meeting from March 23 to March 30 did not conflict with or invalidate the Commission meeting cadence that was established on January 10th, 2019. The motion made at the March 12th meeting was to move one meeting to a different date – not to change the general cadence of meetings. Therefore, the general cadence of meetings remains intact, subject to change per the approval of the majority of the Commissioners.

I understand and empathize with the inconvenience that this may cause members of the public and fellow Commissioners. I am sorry for those who have planned on the March 23rd meeting, or who were inconvenienced by this move. However, the justification to make such a move was expressed at the meeting, and the decision has been made.

Thank you,



Carol Weaver,

Chair, Detroit Charter Commission