

GTF: Ordinance and Policy Sub-Task Force Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 2022

Attendees: Ray Siegfried, John Scheflen, Kate Threefoot, Bev Clendening

There was a preliminary discussion to establish schedule for regular meetings. It was decided that the Ordinance and Policy Sub-task Force will meet on the third Thursday of each month with the exception of April 2022. The next meeting will be Tuesday April 19 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order for regular business at 7:38 PM.

Ray Siegfried reviewed the ground rules and policies for conduction of governance task force meetings, the mission of the task forces and the two sub-task force groups and the expected progression of the work to be accomplished.

Working from the document that was prepared by John Scheflen and distributed to the sub-task force members, the Ordinance and Policy sub-task force began its discussion by considering the difference between an ordinance and a resolution. Both are considered to be legislative acts of the Town Assembly. Ordinances are enforceable rules for the Village that must be submitted in writing and read at two consecutive meetings next preceding the meeting at which it is voted on. A resolution is not enforceable and may be voted on at the meeting in which it is proposed.

Next the committee discussed the parts of the Village Charter dealing with ordinances. John proposed three recommendations.

The first recommendation was that any ordinance proposed for enactment be submitted first to the applicable Village committee or committees for their review and recommendations before the proposed ordinance is presented to the Town Assembly for vote. The committee discussed this recommendation and will suggest to the entire GTF that the Charter be amended to include this requirement. The committee also agreed that amendments to ordinances and repeal of ordinances should be handled in the same manner as enactments of ordinances.

The second recommendation was to review and update the enforcement provisions of Charter Section 12, including the limitation on the amounts of fines and penalties. The committee agreed that this should be done and that more background work was needed. John will work on this for the next meeting.

Finally, the addition of a provision to the Charter permitting waiver of reading a proposed ordinance if the text has been provided to residents prior to the meeting was recommended. After discussion, the committee agreed that the reading should continue to be required to ensure that all members of the Assembly have a clear understanding of all parts of the proposed ordinance before it comes to a vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.