

Historic District Commission Charter Proposal – Bullet Points*

General

- If the new and old charter provisions conflict, the new provision prevails
- Provides protection to historic district residents from past abuse
- More city council oversight

Specific

- HDC membership limited to five people
- 35 days' notice of vacancies to allow interested people ample opportunity to apply
- Further defines HDC member qualifications
- Procedures must be approved by city council and posted online
- HDC meetings must be recorded and uploaded to the city's website
- Requires complete compliance with the Open Meetings Act – examples include:
 - Requiring notice and an opportunity to attend site inspections by three HDC members and prohibiting "round robin" visits to evade the requirement
 - Eliminating Memorandums of Administrative Approval (because they are issued in violation of the Open Meetings Act and not authorized by state statute)
 - Properly noticed special meetings required for exigent circumstances
 - Limited categories of emergency repairs can proceed within published guidelines approved by the city council
 - People may not be told not to attend HDC meetings
- Proper recordkeeping and retention
- No HDC authority over ordinary maintenance and repairs that don't change exterior appearance
- HDC concerns limited to interior and exterior changes that can be seen from the street (painting is still excluded)
- Limits the HDC's authority over open spaces to Depot Park
- Declares that plants, trees, landscaping, and fences are not historic resources for HDC regulation
- Limits enforcement actions
 - HDC must try to work things out with the homeowner first and mediate disagreements on the nature of remedial actions and the timeframe for completion
 - City council must approve all civil infractions and court actions concerning repair and restoration
 - No stop work orders
- City council must approve all professional fees and other expenditures
- Home deed alteration prohibited
- Citizen complaint procedure established

* Please note the language in the charter proposal is what people will vote on and what will be part of the charter if a majority vote "yes." This document is intended to provide a brief summary but has no legal effect. Please refer to the full charter proposal at: <https://www.clarkstonsecrets.com/hdc-charter-proposal/>