



City of Tacoma

Charter Review Committee Minutes

February 12, 2024

5:30 p.m.

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Conference Room 138

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 915 2560 1849

Webinar Link: <https://www.zoom.us/j/91525601849>

Call to Order

Acting Chair Reay called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Silong Chhun, Jason Gauthier, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, and Rebecca Stith

Absent: 7 – Patrick Fischer, Bryan Flint, Andre Jimenez, Melissa Malott, Stephen Wamback (excused), Diamtris Winston, and Lok Yin Wu

Committee Members Fischer, Flint, Jimenez, and Winston arrived at 5:33 p.m., Committee Member Wu arrived at 5:37 p.m., and Committee Member Malott arrived at 6:02 p.m.

All Committee Members participated virtually.

Public Comment

Committee Members Fischer, Flint, Jimenez, and Winston arrived here, at 5:33 p.m.

Public Comment began at 5:33 p.m.

Speaking before the Committee:

1. Donna Thompson, speaking on the flyer for community outreach, website links not working properly, and meeting minutes.

Public Comment ended at 5:36 p.m.

Committee Member Wu arrived here, at 5:37 p.m.

Subcommittee Discussion

At approximately 5:37 p.m., Acting Chair Reay reminded the Committee Members the immense work ahead and the commitment members made in producing the best possible recommendations

to the Charter. Sonja Hallum, Committee Liaison, then discussed and shared a document where CRC member priorities and Subcommittee requests are listed. Subcommittee assignments discussion followed.

Based on the Committee's top priorities, Committee members were assigned to the four Subcommittees formed during the meeting. The Subcommittees and members are as follows:

1. Public Utilities Subcommittee: Baird, Flint, Castro, Carr, and Gauthier;
2. Power of the People Subcommittee: Reay, Chhun, Palmer, Castro, and Jimenez;
3. Administration Subcommittee: Carr, Fischer, Stith, Winston, and Malott; and
4. Miscellaneous Subcommittee: Gauthier, Wamback, Wu, Stith, and Baird.

Discussion ensued on the topics each Subcommittee will review and serving on more than one Subcommittee.

MOTION: Gauthier moved to continue the discussion on prioritizing Subcommittee topics.

SECONDED BY: Flint.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted by unanimous consent.

Committee Member Malott arrived here, at 6:02 p.m.

Palmer raised the idea of forming a fifth Subcommittee dedicated to police accountability/citizens police commission.

MOTION: Jimenez moved to form the Police Accountability/Citizens Police Commission Subcommittee.

SECONDED BY: Baird.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried with 13 Ayes and 1 Nay (Gauthier). The motion was declared adopted.

The Subcommittee and members are as follows:

Police Accountability/Citizens Police Commission Subcommittee: Chhun, Palmer, Malott, Jimenez, and Fischer.

Acting Chair Reay turned the conversation back to the Subcommittee prioritization topic list.

MOTION: Gauthier moved to adopt the prioritization topic list.

SECONDED BY: Castro.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted by unanimous consent.

CRC Discussion – Council/Mayor Issues

At approximately 6:29 p.m., Martha Lantz, Deputy City Attorney, started her presentation on Council and Mayor issues. Lantz presented background on Council Districts, term limits, and number of Council meetings, pointing to where these topics are referenced in the Charter and if there is any overlap with State law or Municipal Code.

Discussion ensued regarding references in the Charter on controlling mechanism for full or part time Council, reference on the number of Council Members, reference on Council's ability to hire their own staff, governing laws of re-districting, term limits, Council/Manager relationships, and rank choice voting.

Break

The meeting recessed at 6:59 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

CRC Discussion – Council/Mayor Issues

Districts

At approximately 7:10 p.m., discussion continued on Council districts, term limits, number of Council meeting voter behavior, disproportionate voice in City governance, shrinking district sizes, voter participation and turn out, and if the Charter is the right vehicle to address voter participation.

Term Limits

At approximately 7:35 p.m., Acting Chair Reay pivoted the Committee discussion on the topic of term limits. Discussion ensued regarding clearly defined term limits for Council and the Mayor, vacancy appointments, waiting period between service, possible resign to run rule and nuances of an elected Mayor who's also a Council member. Committee consensus favors term limits in general.

Number of Council Meeting

At approximately 7:46 p.m., discussion on the number of Council meeting started. Consensus from the Committee is to table the topic. Further discussion on other Council issues will have an impact on the conversation such as Committee decision on whether to recommend a full or part time Council.

Other Business and Homework

At approximately 7:57 p.m., Palmer led the discussion on the outreach plan formulated by the Public Outreach Subcommittee. Discussion ensued on the announcement flyer, including updates and edits on timing and language, media distribution, and timeline on when the final version will be out for the public.

MOTION: Carr moved to approve the amended public flyer.

SECONDED BY: Gauthier.


ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted by unanimous consent.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Stephen Wamback, Chair



Joan Taverna, City Clerk's Office