



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Mark Yango
Charter Review Coordinator

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3210
Seattle, Washington 98104

King County Charter Review Commission **Meeting Minutes – May 29, 2007** Seattle Municipal Tower, 5:30pm-7:30pm

The May 29, 2007 meeting of the King County Charter Review Commission was called to order by co-chair Lois North at 5:36 p.m.

Commission members in attendance:

Mike Lowry, Co-chair
Lois North, Co-chair
Trisha Bennett
Juan Bocanegra
Doreen Cato
Jim English
Dan Gandara
Bryan Glynn
Darcy Goodman
John Groen
Kirstin Haugen
Tara Jo Heinecke
Gregg Hiramawa
John Jensen
Terry Lavender
Gary Long
Sharon Maeda
Allan Munro
Mike Wilkins

Absent:

Sarah Rindlaub
James Williams

Staff:

Mark Yango, Charter Review Coordinator
Corrie Watterson Bryant, Project Manager, Charter Review Commission
Charlotte Ohashi, Administrative Assistant, Charter Review Commission

Council and PAO Staff:

Ross Baker, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Rebecha Cusack, Legislative Lead Analyst, King County Council

Mike Sinsky, Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Nick Wagner, Principal Legislative Analyst, King County Council

Guests:

Sonny Putter

Bong StoDomingo

Marissa Alegria

Karen Goroski

Tom Carpenter

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Lois North made introductory comments and asked for approval of minutes from the April 24, 2007 meeting. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Mike Sinsky reminded the commissioners that their communications are subject to the laws of the Public Disclosure Act (PDA), and that the response timeline to PDA's is five (5) days. He stressed that it is imperative, if anyone receives a request regarding the PDA, that the staff be notified immediately.

2. Guest Speakers

Sonny Putter, representative of Suburban Cities Association (SCA), stated that the SCA represents 37 cities in regional policy and planning. Part of the Charter required the formation of specialized committees, and the SCA participates on the Regional Water Quality and Transit & Policy committees to review county policies and planning. In the past, the SCA has given testimony and comments to the CRC on different areas of concern. The SCA's past recommendations included the following:

1. Revising the charter process so that the recommendations of the commission must be submitted to the voters as drafted by the commission;
2. Providing citizens with the right to amend the charter through the citizen initiative process;
3. Separating the county regional budget from the local service budget;
4. Changing council positions from partisan to non-partisan; and,
5. Maintaining the regional committees of the council

The SCA now has appointed a task force to focus on the areas of concern of its member cities. The task force may reaffirm previous recommendations, and will also consider new issues and positions.

A lengthy question and discussion of Mr. Putter's comments ensued.

Commissioner Jim English, of the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council, and Tom Carpenter, of the Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council (UAC), presented their views to the CRC.

Mr. English explained that the UACs, created in 1994 by county legislative action, represent six geographical areas and were formed to improve communication between county government and the residents of unincorporated King County.

Some charter amendments that the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council would like to see are:

1. Establishing an annual UAC forum sponsored the Executive, and attended by the Executive, key staff members and senior department staff. Establishing an additional yearly forum sponsored by the council;
2. Establishing a requirement for a semiannual Executive-sponsored Operations Cabinet meeting;
3. Directing each county agency to communicate, cooperate and fully integrate any and all overlapping regulatory, policy, and procedural processes with their county agency counterparts;
4. Clearly delineating and defining the defined limits of citizen complaint process;
5. Directing the county to act as an advocate on behalf of its ferry-served communities

A lengthy question and discussion of Mr. English's comments ensued, particularly focusing on: What a citizen's complaint system would look like, support of the ferry-served communities, and unrepresented areas of unincorporated areas.

The Greater Maple Valley UAC also submitted written comments.

Tom Carpenter, representative of the Four Creeks UAC, presented his organization's recommended amendments. He noted that the area represented by the county is mainly rural, and about 80% of it is land which has led to rural vs. urban land use issues. Because growth is inevitable, in the future the area will need to look at how to work cooperatively with urban areas to ensure a shared vision that will enhance livable and economically sound communities.

The Four Creeks UAC's recommendations are:

1. Create a cross-functional empowered Department of Unincorporated and Rural Affairs;
2. Create a comprehensive subarea planning process for unincorporated King County, such as is done in municipalities;
1. Divide the county council into two houses, one based on population apportioning and the other based on land apportioning

A discussion of Mr. Carpenter's comments ensued with questions on the new council structure would work.

3. Public Hearings

Mark Yango presented the final public outreach meeting schedule and confirmed the attendance of the commissioners at each of the 9 meetings. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June

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9, 2007; the last meeting is on July 10, 2007. He also went over media efforts by staff to advertise the upcoming meetings and suggested a basic game plan for the meeting process. Some general discussion ensued.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Co-chair Lois North adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte Ohashi and Corrie Watterson