



King County

Charter Review Commission

November 28, 2018

In Attendance:

Louise Miller (Co-Chair), Joe Fain, Elizabeth Ford, Ian Goodhew, David Heller, Michael Herschensohn, Sean Kelly, Linda Larson, Nat Morales, Jeff Natter, Toby Nixon, Nikkita Oliver, Rob Saka, Alejandra Tres (via telephone), Kinnon Williams and Sung Yang

Excused:

Tim Ceis, Clayton Lewis, Marcos Martinez, Brooks Salazar, Beth Sigall and Ron Sims

Council and Executive Staff:

Kelli Carroll, Director of Special Projects, Patrick Hamacher, Director of Legislative Analysis, Callie Knight, Executive Program Assistant, and Mac Nicholson, Director of Government Relations

Also in Attendance:

Susie Slonecker and Mike Sinsky, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and Rick Hayes, Senior Human Resources Policy Advisor, Department of Executive Services

Call to Order

Co-Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. She asked those on the telephone and at the table to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Nixon moved approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2018 meeting. A typographical correction was made. The minutes were approved as amended.

Outreach Plan Status Update - Patrick Hamacher

Discussion/Comments/Questions:

- The online survey tool is now live; no formal responses have yet been received.
- Translation services will be provided for Tier 1 and Tier 2 languages.
- The first round of outreach will be the web tool – letters and emails have been sent.
- The online survey can be pushed out via social media when the timing is appropriate.
- Discussion ensued regarding the need for translation of responses.
- Kelli Carroll reviewed a draft timeline aiming for a May 2019 submission to the Council.
- The draft plan shows two different dates for submission of the final report to the County Council – May 22, 2019, and the end of April 2019.
- The last charter review spread amendments over a couple of general elections, so everything does not necessarily need to be put forth in 2019.
- It is ultimately the County Council's call what gets on the ballot and when it gets on the ballot.
- Does it need to be a single report or can it be a phased approach?
- Regarding the level of detail that is expected of the Commission, the consensus is that the Commission follows through end-to-end, to include proposed language and a redline version of the Charter.

Follow-up:

- Outreach plan calls for three town halls by the end of March. Need to determine when and where they will be. Staff will put together proposals.
- Determine whether the Commission wants to aim for submission for a 2019 general election or look at a longer timeline and a 2020 general election.
- The Outreach Committee will likely be meeting again to review progress as far as the timeline. Any thoughts related to the process, outreach and timing should be submitted to them for consideration.

Potential Amendments - Patrick Hamacher

The following questions, submitted subsequent to the spreadsheet's creation, were addressed:

- What are the hurdles to having a committee dedicated to the creation and preservation of affordable housing, and can they be addressed in the charter? County can't force the cities to do anything.
- Should affordable housing be under the jurisdiction of one of the regional committees? Would fall under the Regional Policy Committee. In order to qualify, it has to be a regional or countywide policy or plan and the Committee would have to put it on its work plan.
- Should the preamble of the charter be amended to include reference to affordable housing? This is a policy call.

Discussion/Comments/Questions

Overall

- Delete the word “metropolitan” in reference to the County Council.
- Prioritize and improve transparency so the public is aware of the processes, how they can get involved and how they can be informed.
- Several grammatical, technical and typographical corrections.

Sections

- Ensure the county retains economic vitality and all individuals have economic opportunities across a variety of industries particularly in light of growth and equity.
- Section 230.5 – needs work on its consistency.
- Section 230.50.10 – What is the definition of “take action”?
- Section 230.6 – Should this be in the Charter or Code? Make it explicit in the Charter what the process to amend the Charter would be. Consider the thresholds and process of a charter amendment and whether it should be synonymous with the standards for passing a simple ordinance.
- 230.7 – discussion about what needs to be done within the specified 45 days – provide clarification.
- 230.75 – consider changing “citizen of the county” to “aggrieved person”. Possibly include title of Ombuds office.
- Section 320.2 – Item 3 was withdrawn by the Executive's Office.
- Section 540 – Are there parallel processes at work? Is there any change to the Personnel Board structure that could be helpful?
- New Section 648 – look at pros and cons and other potential options.
- Section 895 – add qualifications as to what representation would look like.

Follow-up:

- Staff will break the list down into natural categories and recirculate it.
- The Executive items related to personnel and compensation will be addressed as a group.
- Patrick will follow-up with Councilmember Lambert regarding her proposal for Article 6, Section 645.

Next Steps

- The next meeting will be on December 19, 2018.
- Commissioners should continue to send input to Patrick Hamacher.

Other Business

- Commissioner Will Ibershof has resigned due to having moved out of the county.
- Public Comment will be at the beginning of the agenda for future meetings.

Public Comment

Rory O’Sullivan expressed support for the proposed rank-choice voting and also public financing of campaigns under section 660. Proposed revision of section 800 – making this a citizen jury process, with people from each of the council districts. Suggest under 650.1 to have multi-member districts for county council, and also switch elections to even numbered years to have a larger voting pool on the county offices.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.