



King County

Charter Review Commission

April 24, 2019

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Louise Miller (Co-Chair), Tim Ceis, Joe Fain (via telephone), David Heller, Sean Kelly, Clayton Lewis, Toby Nixon, Nikkita Oliver, Rob Saka, Brooks Salazar (via telephone), Beth Sigall (via telephone), Alejandra Tres, Kinnon Williams and Sung Yang

Excused:

Elizabeth Ford, Ian Goodhew, Michael Herschensohn, Linda Larson, Marcos Martinez, Nat Morales, and Ron Sims

Council and Executive Staff:

Calli Knight, External Relations Specialist, and Mac Nicholson, Director of Government Relations.

Also in Attendance:

Mike Sinsky and Mari Isaacson, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office; meeting facilitator Betsy Daniels, Co-President, Triangle Associates, Inc.; and Mishu Pham-Whipple, Project Associate, Triangle Associates, Inc.

Welcome and Call to Order

Co-Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Public Comment:

The following persons were present to provide comment: Corey Guilmette and Jennifer McSherry.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Nixon moved approval of the minutes of the March 14 and March 27, 2019 meetings. The motion was seconded. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.

Extension of Triangle Associates, Inc. Contract

Commissioner Williams moved approval to extend the Triangle Associates, Inc. contract through the end of November 2019. Commissioner Nixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Report out from sub-committees on meetings to-date

A handout summarizing the status of each subcommittee was provided. Discussion ensued regarding how early action items might be handled by the Council.

Regional Coordination:

- Regional housing in regard to selling County property – feel that with minor modifications this could be brought in line with state law and allow for the use of surplus land for affordable housing. This was identified as an early action item.
- Regional committees – looking at consolidation of regional committees. This is still under review.
- Economic development – suggesting more of a policy statement in the preamble that would emphasize arts, culture and a livable environment. This was identified as an early action item.

Further discussion addressed getting feedback from the suburban cities and the Sound Cities Association, and the voting balance on the Regional Water Quality Committee.

Equity for All:

- Additional language for the OLEO portion related to subpoena power. This was identified as an early action item.
- Additional language regarding inquests, particularly around in-custody situations and legal representation for families. These were identified as an early action item.
- Adding additional categories (pregnancy, use of a service animal for a disability, military or veteran status and caregiver status) under nondiscrimination. This was identified as an early action item.

Further discussion addressed how “service animal” and “caregiver” would be defined and whether or not the Commission should consider potential costs.

Access:

- No short term proposals and no consensus on any item.
- Public financing of campaigns for office continues to be addressed.
- Draft language related to ranked-choice voting.
- Review Charter through an equity lens in regard to population growth.
- Continue discussions regarding the size of the County Council.

Further discussion addressed the need to get feedback from the full commission regarding interest in continuing to pursue certain topics.

Transparency & Accountability:

- Update and clarify the initiative and referendum process. This was identified as an early action item.
- Technical adjustments to the County budget process. This was identified as an early action item.
- A removal process for elected officials continues to be discussed.
- The Charter Review Commission process is still under discussion.
- Changing sheriff to an appointed position and maintaining the public defender as an appointed position. Looking for feedback from the full Commission.

Further discussion addressed the politics surrounding changing the sheriff to an appointed position, the need to consider the urgency of the issues that are identified as early action items, the potential for the removal from office language to ameliorate the appointed versus elected question. The sub-committee will continue to look at moving the sheriff to an appointed position.

The group discussed which of the eight items identified as early action items should move forward at the present time. Determinations were made as follows:

Early action items:

- OLEO subpoena power
- Bring the language related to the sale of surplus property into line with state law and allow an option for use toward affordable housing.
- Inquest (combine the two issues of in-custody and legal representation for families)

Potential early action items to be discussed further at the May meeting:

- Budget process adjustments
- Value statement in the preamble (emphasis on arts, culture, livable environment, equity, innovation)

Items for longer term discussion:

- Nondiscrimination language
- Initiative and referendum process improvements
- Other items on the list not identified as early action items

Action:

- Staff will draft an ordinance for each of the items that have been identified as early action items.

Discussion/Comments:

Further discussion addressed having subcommittee meetings during the day rather than in the evening, and how to couch the issues in the report to the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.