



King County

Charter Review Commission

September 25, 2019

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Louise Miller (Co-Chair), Tim Ceis, David Heller, Sean Kelly, Linda Larson, Toby Nixon, Nikkita Oliver, Rob Saka (via telephone), Beth Sigall (via telephone), Alejandra Tres (via telephone), Kinnon Williams and Sung Yang.

Excused:

Joe Fain, Elizabeth Ford, Ian Goodhew, Michael Herschensohn, Clayton Lewis, Marcos Martinez, Nat Morales, Brooks Salazar and Ron Sims.

Council and Executive Staff:

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

Also in Attendance:

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 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Williams moved approval of the minutes of the June 26, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.

Public Comment:

The following persons provided public comment: Alex Tsimerman and George Cheung.

Discussion of Public Comment Letters received by Commission

Discussion was held regarding public comment submissions and whether the Commission wants to take up any further topics based on those comments. In response to a question about translation of materials, it was noted that the town hall materials will be translated into nine languages. Public comment letters will be included as an appendix to the Commission's report. A letter from the Sound Cities Association was read to the Commission and will also be included.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the letters be included in the report to provide content for the future Charter Review Commission to take up. The motion was adopted.

Letters that arrived late in the process will be included with whatever is received at the town halls for consideration at the next meeting. A copy of any public comment submitted will also be available at the town hall meetings.

Review Commission decisions to-date and discuss remaining proposals for charter amendments

A document outlining the decisions the Commission has already made was provided in the meeting materials. The anti-discrimination language recommended by the Equity Subcommittee was also provided.

Action: Staff will ask the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) for an opinion on whether anti-discrimination language related to discharge solely based on sexual orientation or gender identity would put any federal funding at risk. Also, the PAO will weigh in regarding immigration status and criminal history as protected classes.

Discussion regarding how comments submitted might be incorporated into the discussion. Written submissions from the public along with comments from the public forums will be addressed at the October 23, 2019, Commission meeting.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Ceis and seconded to accept the proposed anti-discrimination language. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Staff will include the anti-discrimination proposal as written. Handout will be updated and font corrected.

Review and approve amendment language and/or justification for each charter amendment

Variations in the document language were discussed.

Action: The Draft Charter Amendments document will be updated to include the actual language that will be submitted for each item. Staff will send out an email with the updated document.

If there are any corrections or comments, Commissioners should send comments to staff.

Discussion was held regarding whether to include ranked-choice voting in the public handout. It was determined that it would not be included in the town hall handout, but would be included as a topic in the report to the Council. The subcommittee will need to provide some language regarding how that would be drafted.

Review outreach strategy and materials for October Town Hall meetings

The Executive and County Councilmembers sent the outreach information out to their constituents via social media. Commissioners were also encouraged to share the information. Discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of ethnic media, contacting the Seattle Times regarding doing an editorial, utilizing radio and sending out press releases.

Action:

- Staff – will send out list of where they plan to advertise, along with the content that is going out through Council and Executive social media.
- Staff will draft and send out a press release.
- Staff – will ensure that local elected officials are aware of the town hall meetings.
- Calli – will send out social media toolkit with image descriptions.
- Sung – will reach out to Northwest Asian Weekly and the Seattle Times.
- Nikkita – will reach out to Crosscut, KUOW and KVRU.
- Tim - willing to be a contact on the press release.
- Toby - will reach out to the contact for the Reporter newspapers.

Media wishing to speak to a commissioner will be directed to staff who will determine Co-Chair Miller's availability to speak with them.

Scheduling and next steps

The commission discussed the format for the town halls and the materials that will be available. It was requested that it be made clear that public comments can be submitted online in lieu of speaking at the town halls.

Town halls: October 15, 16, 17 and 23 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting: November 6.

Additional meetings: November 20 and possibly early December.

The Commission report is in progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.