



# Charter Review

## Form of Government Subcommittee Minutes

Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 12

[www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview)

March 3, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Committee Members Present: 6 – Baarsma (arrived at 5:38 p.m.), Brackett, Edmonds (arrived at 6:18 p.m.), Messina, Miller, and Van Dyk.

Committee Members Absent: 1 – Merritt.

Chair Miller welcomed Committee Members and introduced April Larsen, Environmental Services, as the new staff support for the Subcommittee.

### **Approval of the February 26, 2014 Minutes**

Committee Member Brackett moved that the minutes of February 26, 2014 meeting be approved. Seconded by Committee Member Messina. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was adopted.

### **Confirmation of the Committee Vice-Chair**

Committee Member Brackett moved to confirm Committee Member Van Dyk as the Vice-Chair. Seconded by Committee Member Messina. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was adopted.

### **Introduction of University of Puget Sound Interns**

Chair Miller stated one or more interns from the University of Puget Sound (UPS) will be assisting the Subcommittee with research. He noted Committee Member Baarsma has been working with UPS to arrange for the interns and he may have additional information when he arrives.

### **Test Baarsma/Merritt/Ushka Criteria Format**

At approximately 5:36 p.m., Chair Miller stated this item relates to the criteria discussed at last week's meeting. He then provided background information on the criteria that will be used and the need to give structure to the Form of Government Subcommittee's work.

Committee Member Baarsma arrived here, at 5:38 p.m.

Chair Miller continued discussing the criteria that could be used to examine the pros and cons of the different forms of government.

### **Schedule, Prioritize, and Assign Committee Criteria**

At approximately 5:45 p.m., Chair Miller reviewed the two types of criteria that will be used in researching the different forms of government: Factual and Value driven; he then reviewed the meaning of each. After the review, he requested Committee Members select four criteria they believe to be important or should be a priority for the Subcommittee to research. Discussion ensued regarding the meanings of the different criteria terms listed. Committee Member Baarsma requested staff contact Robin Jacobson, from the Department of Politics and Government at UPS, regarding obtaining interns to assist with the Subcommittee's research. The same exercise was performed for the top five priorities of the value driven criteria. Discussion ensued throughout the exercise regarding how the criteria would be used, the meaning of the different criteria terms, how best to frame the analysis, comparable cities, and the need to add geopolitical to the list of criteria. Committee Member Van Dyk requested further conversation about how cities transition from one form of government to another. Committee Member Baarsma noted there will be speakers at next Monday's Charter Review Committee meeting that will discuss how their City transitioned.

The priorities were selected and assigned as follows:

Value Driven: Balance of Power – Committee Member Brackett; Strategic/Visionary Capacity within Leadership versus Management – Committee Member Baarsma; Politically Responsive/Accountability – tentatively Committee Member Merritt; Fiscally Responsible Structure – Committee Member Van Dyk; and Organizational Clarity – Committee Member Messina.

Factual: Geopolitical – Committee Member Messina; Power of the People – Committee Member Edmonds; Business Climate – Committee Member Brackett; Twin Cities – Committee Member Baarsma; Corruption – Committee Member Van Dyk; Diversity – tentatively Committee Member Merritt; Population – Chair Miller

Committee Member Edmonds arrived at 6:18 p.m. while the priorities were being set.

Chair Miller recapped the meeting thus far and requested Committee Members develop definitions for the items they were assigned and be prepared to discuss them with the Subcommittee. He noted the Subcommittee's report to the Charter Review Committee is due by the end of March. Chair Miller requested Committee Members submit their definitions to Ms. Larsen by end of day Wednesday; she will compile the definitions and send them out the Committee Members for review and comment. He noted comments should be returned to Ms. Larsen by end of day Sunday.

Discussion followed regarding the population of comparable cities, and whether there is a need for the Subcommittee to meet next week. Chair Miller stated the Subcommittee would meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2014, to go through the definitions and meet the interns that will be assigned to assist the Subcommittee.

**Discuss Possible Committee Theme Song**

Chair Miller stated this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

**Public Comment**

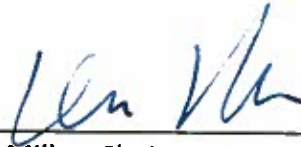
None.

**Committee Comments**

None.

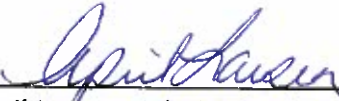
**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



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Ken Miller, Chair



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April Larsen, Administrative Assistant, Environmental Services