



Charter Review

Form of Government Subcommittee Minutes

Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 12
www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview

March 17, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.

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

Committee Members Present: 7 – Baarsma, Brackett, Edmonds, Merritt (arrived at 5:42 p.m.), Messina (arrived at 5:37 p.m.), Miller, and Van Dyk (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)

Committee Members Excused Absence: 0

Approval of the March 10, 2014 Minutes

Committee Member Baarsma moved that the minutes of March 10, 2014 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Brackett. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was adopted.

Criteria Presentations

At approximately 5:34 p.m. Chair Miller discussed the need to get consensus from Committee Members on how best to communicate their recommendations to the larger Charter Review Committee next week. Discussion ensued regarding different formats and layouts that could be used to present recommendations.

Committee Member Van Dyk arrived here, at 5:35 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding how to present information to the Charter Review Committee, the need for a clear point of view, a brief and concise presentation, and offering layers of details for those interested.

Committee Member Messina arrived here, at 5:37 p.m.

Committee Member Edmonds discussed presenting information in a matrix with key points of the criteria. She then presented her research on the criteria "Power of the People."

Committee Member Merritt arrived here, at 5:42 p.m.

Committee Member Edmonds continued reviewing “Power of the People” research; then Committee Members discussed which form of government (FOG) seems to provide greater opportunity for participation by the voting public and is more democratic. Chair Miller stated the consensus from Committee Members is supporting the Mayor/Council FOG, noting it seems to do a better job of empowering its citizens.

Committee Member Messina provided a handout and presented his research on the criteria “Clarity.” Discussion followed regarding which FOG offers greater organizational clarity for its citizens, stakeholders, and staff. Chair Miller stated the consensus is support for the Mayor/Council FOG.

Committee Member Messina then presented his research on the criteria “Geopolitical.” Discussion ensued regarding which FOG is more appropriate given the City’s geopolitical circumstances, and whether the FOG matters for this criteria. Chair Miller stated the consensus seems to support the Mayor/Council FOG.

Committee Member Van Dyk presented his research on the criteria “Corruption.” Chair Miller stated he just received some additional data relating to this item and would provide it to Committee Member Van Dyk. He then stated this item will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Committee Member Van Dyk then requested to defer his presentation regarding the criteria “Fiscally Responsible Structure” to Wednesday.

Committee Member Brackett briefly discussed the criteria “Balance of Power”, noting neither FOG is inherently more appropriately balanced. He then requested additional time before presenting on his research for the criteria “Business Climate.”

Committee Member Merritt presented his research on the criteria “Political Responsiveness/Accountability.” Discussion followed regarding which FOG offers greater responsiveness. Chair Miller stated the consensus from Committee Members seems to support the Mayor/Council FOG.

Committee Member Merritt then presented his research on the criteria “Diversity”, noting his research seems to be indifferent depending on the FOG. Discussion ensued regarding diversity. Chair Miller inquired whether one FOG provides a greater opportunity for diversity in thinking; he then stated this item would be revisited on Wednesday.

Committee Member Baarsma presented his research on the criteria “Leadership.” Discussion ensued regarding which FOG is more likely to deliver strategic thinking and public discussion. Chair Miller stated the consensus from Committee Members is supporting the Mayor/Council FOG.

Discussion followed regarding the need for further conversations with the Administrative and Legislative Subcommittees if the recommendation is to change the FOG.

Chair Miller presented his research on the criteria "Demographics"; he provided two charts benchmarking the correlation between people in poverty and race, noting race does not seem to be a factor when looking at the FOG, but poverty may. He then noted that he has provided only data at this time and has not drawn a conclusion.

Public Comment

None.

Committee Comments

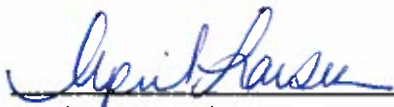
None.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Ken Miller, Chair



April Larsen, Administrative Assistant