



Charter Review

Form of Government Subcommittee

Special Meeting Minutes

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

March 19, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.

Vice Chair Van Dyk called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Committee Members Present: 6 – Baarsma, Brackett, Edmonds, Merritt, Messina, and Van Dyk.

Committee Members Excused Absence: 1 – Miller.

Criteria Presentations

At approximately 7:12 p.m., Committee Member Brackett presented his research on the criteria “Business Climate”; he then noted there are not statistics available at this time that will help the subcommittee to evaluate business climate in the form of government (FOG). Discussion ensued regarding the use of Pierce County/Metro statistics, the difficulty of finding relative data. Committee Member Brackett stated, based upon the data he found, he is unable to determine if one FOG is better than the other at promoting a favorable business climate.

Committee Member Messina presented his research on the criteria “Geopolitical”, and provided a handout to the Subcommittee. He then reviewed his thoughts on the defects of the Council/Manager FOG.

Committee Member Baarsma reiterated the two questions before the Subcommittee for consideration: Is a change in the form of government sufficiently important that the City Council should place the issue before the voters?; and if so, do we have a view as to which form of government is preferable? He then discussed the need to have the other Charter Review Subcommittees look at alternative language if a change of the FOG is recommended.

Committee Member Baarsma stated Chair Miller has suggested to focus on the preliminary recommendation presentation to the Charter Review Committee. Discussion ensued regarding considerations for the Charter Review Committee, the City Council, and Tacoma voters.

Vice Chair Van Dyk presented his research on the criteria “Corruption”; noting he found seven cases of convictions since 1990 of mayors and none for city managers. Discussion followed

regarding other ways of evaluating and characterizing corruption, and which cities were researched.

Vice Chair Van Dyk reviewed his research on the criteria "Fiscal Responsible Structure"; he then provided a handout. He stated drawing a conclusion from the data is proving difficult.

Committee Member Baarsma provided handouts on two FOGs: the model Spokane uses, the Mayor/CAO/Council FOG; and the model recommended by the National Civic League, Mayor/Council/CAO FOG. Discussion followed regarding the definitions, roles, and responsibilities of a CAO; and the roles of the Mayor and Council in each FOG.

Public Comment

None.

Committee Comments

None.

Adjournment

Committee Member Edmonds moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Committee Member Baarsma. On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Justin Van Dyk, Vice Chair



April Larsen, Administrative Assistant