



Charter Review

Form of Government Subcommittee Minutes

Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 12

www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview

March 24, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Committee Members Present: 7 – Baarsma, Brackett, Edmonds (arrived at 5:43 p.m.), Merritt (arrived at 5:38 p.m.), Messina, Miller, and Van Dyk.

Committee Members Excused Absence: 0

Review and Discuss Preliminary Subcommittee Report

At approximately 5:30 p.m. Chair Miller provided a copy of the PowerPoint presentation of the draft preliminary report that will be given to the Charter Review Committee. He then asked Committee Members to review the presentation and provide comment. Discussion ensued regarding changes to the presentation, including:

Slide 3 – Remove former Mayor Mike Crowley, Tacoma City Council Member Victoria Woodards; and add former Mayor Karen Vialle, former Tacoma City Council Members Tim Strege and Jake Fey, and Tacoma City Council Member Joe Lonergan

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

Slide 4 – Revise the first question to state “Is a change in the form of government sufficiently important that the City Council should place the issue before the voters?”

Committee Member Edmonds arrived here, at 5:43 p.m.

Slide 7 – Under “Balance of Power” add, in parenthesis, “the nature of the balance of power differs”

Slide 8 – Under “Business Climate” change it to state “unable to determine a distinction – incomplete data”

Slide 20 – Same changes as Slide 4

Slide 21 – Remove the fourth City Council option because it does not seem to be a viable option

Chair Miller briefly discussed the criteria, noting his expectation is that each Committee Member would be willing to answer questions about their particular criteria. He then asked each Committee Member to answer the following two questions: 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? All Committee Members answered "Yes" to the first question. Regarding the second question, Committee Members Baarsma, Brackett, Merritt, Messina, and Van Dyk seemed to support some form of a Mayor/Council/CAO form of government (FOG); and Committee Member Edmonds stated she supports a modification to the current Council/Manager FOG at this time.

Chair Miller noted that if a change in the FOG is recommended, the Administrative and Legislative Subcommittees will need to be involved. He then stated he wants to make sure that this is not about the current City Manager, but built on what has been learned over the last 50 years. Committee Member Baarsma requested the University of Puget Sound interns look at potential costs relating to a change in the FOG; and suggested they compare Spokane and Tacoma. Committee Member Van Dyk agreed to relay the request to the interns.

Discussion ensued regarding whether an additional meeting is necessary, and whether a recommendation needs to be formalized in a motion at this time.

Review Next Steps

This item was not discussed.

Public Comment

None.

Committee Comments

None.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.



Ken Miller, Chair



April Larsen, Administrative Assistant