



2014 TACOMA CHARTER REVIEW A LOOK AT HOW YOUR CITY WORKS

Terri Baker (Convener) – Charles Horne – Eric Hahn – Mark Martinez – Pat Talton – Catherine Ushka

Charter Review Human Resources Subcommittee Minutes

Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 12

www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview

March 4, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.

Convener Baker called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Committee Members Present: 6 - Convener Baker, Horne, Hahn (arrived at 5:39 p.m.),
Martinez, Talton (arrived at 5:39 p.m.), and Ushka.

Committee Members Excused Absence: 0

Select a Committee Chair

At approximately 5:35 p.m., Committee Member Ushka nominated Committee Member Baker as the Chair. Committee Member Horne moved that the nomination be closed and by proclamation Committee Member Baker is the chair.

Set a regular time to meet

At approximately 5:36 p.m., discussion ensued regarding a time and date to meet. The committee decided on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. .

Committee Members Hahn and Talton arrived here, at 5:39 p.m.

Determine a work plan

At approximately 5:40 p.m., Chair Baker covered that this subcommittee is covering primarily Human Resources and miscellaneous. Chair Baker asked how everyone wanted to proceed. Once the Charter Review Recommendations spreadsheet is sorted through, the subcommittee will take subject areas and discuss/review. One item to cover in the future could be bookends on making the choosing of commission members more of a public process. Elections and Civil Service Board are big subjects. This meeting is for organizing how they are going to go. Chair Baker recommended devoting a meeting to each major subject with the next meeting covering elections. The committee requested a draft of the elections information and to have someone from the City Attorney's Office join a future meeting.

Discussion ensued. Some criteria options came up. Improve residents of Tacoma. Accessibility of language was brought up as a potential criteria item. Housekeeping items, such as items that are not updated in the Charter but already are taking place. Committee Member Ushka made a recommendation that they recommend to the full Charter Review Committee that each committee come up with a "Housekeeping" list.

Discussion continued on clarifying words in the Charter, making items clearer, including accessibility of language, plain speak vs. Legalese, best practices, standing the test of time, remove barriers to service and increase civic engagement/accessibility.



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Discussion ensued regarding Neighborhood Councils. The City of Spokane has Neighborhood Councils in their Charter. The committee requested staff an intern research other City Charters and best practices.

Chair Baker summarized what happened during the meeting. Group decided to do homework to decide which sections to cover. The group discussed who they want to hear from to give more detail on sections.

Chair Baker asked if they could speak to the last Charter Commission about certain items to see if they thought what they did would change language and the former City Council to see if they thought what they did would change the language. Topic related to gender neutralization (he to he/she). It was suggested that staff can look in to that and get more information.

Committee Member Ushka would like to see an update on the anti-discrimination language Discussion ensued on differences from the Revised Code of Washington.

Committee Member Talton summarized what the group was going to do on their own during the week and clarified which speakers and ideas they had from the list of recommendations. Discussion ensued regarding the list of recommendations and other presentations regarding the City Charter.

Committee Member Horne reminded the Subcommittee to focus on the certain section this group is covering.

Committee Member Hahn spoke about calling in for certain meetings and informed he'll be absent for the next meeting.

Public Comment

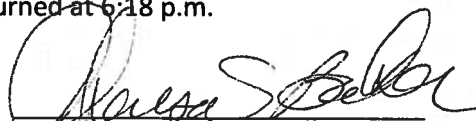
None.

Committee Comments

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.



Terri Baker, Chair

Marisa Tetreault, Administrative Assistant, Public Works