

Committee Members Present: Joseph Andaya
Jack Ardner
Jacob Cleverly
Christopher Dresel
Tim Fier
Amanda Gayken
Jack Hollis
Cathy Keathley
Dana Stroud
Marcela Wash

Committee Members Not Present: Shelley Denison
Britt McConn
Debra Stuart

Staff Present: Kevin McConnell, City Attorney
Sherisa Davis-Larry, Senior Assistant City
Attorney
Margarita Contreras, Administrative Assistant
Dara Wright, Paralegal

A public meeting of the Charter Review Committee (CRC) was called to order by Chair Joseph Andaya, on the 11th of April, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom. The meeting was digitally recorded and minutes were prepared by Dara Wright.

1. PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

Written testimony was received from Paul Wilcox. He provided 2 emails for the CRC to review:

- 1.) Mr. Wilcox provided information regarding plurality vs. majority voting, as well as information about voter turnout. He encouraged the CRC to complete their work in time to get recommended amendments to Council in time for the November 2022 elections.
- 2.) Mr. Wilcox provided information regarding Troutdale's transition from voting by individual position to "top three."

Written testimony was also received from Mike Alfoni, ORRCV Executive Director, who expressed an interest in providing oral testimony at a future meeting.

2. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS.

No oral testimony was given.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

Minutes from the March 9, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved by the committee members present.

4. REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEE.

The subcommittee submitted a status report to the committee, and Member Hollis provided an overview of their work thus far. The subcommittee has been focusing on strategies to obtain community feedback, including working with the City's Community Engagement staff to form a community engagement plan. They have also selected some possible facilitators to work with. There are three facilitators suggested which are all affiliated with Resolutions Northwest and the Mediators Collective. CAO staff is currently coordinating with these facilitators.

The subcommittee has also engaged with Dr. Lochner and Dr. Seljan, to provide a foundational document to work with which outlines the pros and cons of each potential election and voting system.

Mr. McConnell updated the committee regarding his conversation with Tim Scott, the Director of the Multnomah County Elections Division. If the committee were to recommend an election or voting system which is not currently the norm in Multnomah County, there is no impediment as of now in implementing any system that the City of Gresham may eventually put on the ballot.

City staff members Denise Johnson, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Manager, Alex Logue, Community Engagement Specialist, and Larry Morgan, Policy Communications Specialist, attended select subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee has drafted questions to use for surveys and other public outreach efforts, and Alex Logue and Denise Johnson are assisting the subcommittee with finalizing these questions. The draft questions are as follows:

- 1.) Are you satisfied with the City's current voting process?
- 2.) What concerns do you have about any of these election or voting systems? Do you have a preference on any of these election or voting methods?
- 3.) Do you have trust in the City's election process and do you think it's fair? If not- what would you need to change your level of trust in the City's election process?
- 4.) Do you feel adequately represented by our current leadership? If not- why?
- 5.) Did you vote for Gresham City Council members in the last election? If not- what are the barriers?

The subcommittee has been inviting community-based election reform organizations to present at their meetings. Sightline Institute and the Equal Vote Coalition were scheduled to present to the subcommittee on April 13, 2022.

On approximately June 1, 2022, the subcommittee will assess whether they will be able to make a recommendation regarding the election and voting systems in time to put a measure on the ballot for the November 2022 election.

Member Keathley suggested adding a survey question related to what barriers may exist which prevents people from running for office in the City's elections.

Member Stroud expressed an interest in working with Larry Morgan to compile electorate data to assist with their research. Without objection, the committee decided they would like to obtain electorate data specific to Gresham which could be provided to Dr. Lochner and Dr. Seljan as they prepare their report and recommendation for the CRC. Specifically, they would like to see geographic demographics within Gresham, but also any other data which Larry Morgan may believe would assist the professors and the committee while evaluating which types of election and voting systems may facilitate the most equitable outcomes in Gresham.

Member Fier suggested adding another component to the subcommittee's draft question no. 5: If the barriers were removed, would you vote?

Member Hollis asked whether the committee had any feedback for the subcommittee, and if anyone felt there were any adjustments that needed to be made as they continue to work. The committee did not express any adjustments to be made.

Chair Andaya suggested inviting the Coalition of Communities of Color and the Fair Voting Team to a future subcommittee or committee meeting. The subcommittee invited CRC members to forward their suggestions for other groups to invite to future meetings to Dara Wright.

The committee discussed inviting City employees to present to the CRC, including the City Manager or the Urban Renewal department. Vice Chair Ardner suggested inviting the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations to a future meeting.

Mr. McConnell provided an update regarding some possible amendments to the Charter that had been discussed at previous meetings. He has a meeting scheduled with a Multnomah County attorney to discuss potential legal issues that may arise if a municipality were to amend its charter to allow people under the age of 18 or individuals who are not citizens to vote in city elections. He will provide an update on this topic at a future meeting if the CRC is interested in pursuing such charter amendments.

Member Wash expressed an interest in creating a working document to compile the committee's priorities moving forward. Without objection, the committee asked the City to create a working document to compile the Committee's priority list.

Mr. McConnell provided an update on the current membership of the CRC. Rachelle Shepherd no longer lives in Gresham and submitted her resignation from the

CRC. Councilor Gladfelter nominated Debra Stuart to fill this vacancy on the committee, which was approved at City Council's last meeting.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING; FUTURE SCHEDULE.

The next meeting will include public comment, a report from the subcommittee, and discussion around a working document reflecting the CRC's priorities as agenda items.

Additional future meeting agenda items are: presentation from the City Manager's Office, presentation from the Urban Renewal Department, presentation from the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations.

The date of the next CRC meeting will be determined after CAO obtains available dates from City staff and the members of the CRC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.