

JOHN ARDNER  
SHELLEY DENISON  
CHRISTOPHER DRESEL

TIM FIER  
JACK HOLLIS  
DANA STROUD

**GRESHAM CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE –  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2, 2022  
OPEN SESSION – 1 PM  
VIA ZOOM MEETING (SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW)**

The Gresham City Charter Review Committee will be holding the  
November 2, 2022, Meeting at 1 P.M. via Zoom Meeting.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://greshamoregon.zoom.us/j/84979639192?pwd=KzBtUGFRbUdSTWJXcVloMnQwbkITdz09>  
Passcode: QLC0RvUqkM

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16699006833,,84979639192#,,,,\*0701199122# or +12133388477,,84979639192#,,,,\*0701199122#

Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 213 338 8477 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 646 876 9923

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Persons who desire to access the meeting and are unable to access the meeting via Zoom are encouraged to contact Jane Leo, Policy Analyst, by calling 503-618-2508 or emailing by 5:00 pm two business days before the meeting, so that the City can provide alternate arrangements.

Persons who desire translation services for this meeting must notify Jane Leo, Policy Analyst, by calling 503-618-2508 or emailing [Jane.Leo@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Jane.Leo@GreshamOregon.gov) by 5:00 pm three business days before the meeting, so that the City can make arrangements for translation services.

If you wish to receive notices of future meetings, please contact Jane Leo, Policy Analyst, at [Jane.Leo@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Jane.Leo@GreshamOregon.gov) or (503) 618-2508.

**GRESHAM CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE –  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

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- 1. PUBLIC COMMENT/TESTIMONY**
  
- 2. UPDATE ON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
  
- 3. REVIEW OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE**
  - a. City of Gresham Resolution 3478**
  - b. Charter Review Committee Directive**
  
- 4. PRIORITIZATION OF WORK ITEMS**
  
- 5. INVITATION OF SPEAKERS**
  - a. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**
  - b. URBAN RENEWAL**
  
- 6. OTHER ITEMS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

## 10/19/2022 Meeting

### Committee Members Present:

Jack Ardner  
Christopher Dresel  
Tim Fier  
Jack Hollis, Chair  
Dana Stroud  
Shelley Denison

### Staff Present:

Sheris Davis-Larry, Assistant City Attorney  
Margarita Contreras, Administrative Assistant  
Jane Leo, Policy Analyst

## 1. UPDATE ON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Member Dresel reported he reached out to his high school contacts asking if members of the Subcommittee could come to their classroom to discuss the City's Charter Review, Voting process, and Survey. The responses received recommend making the request through the School Administration. He will work with Ms. Leo on the distribution of the request letter. He also sent an email request to Youth Voice/Youth Vote (Y2<sup>2</sup>) through their website but has not yet received a response.

Member Denison reported she is drafting instruction guidelines and engagement activities for use during the classroom presentations. Ms. Leo suggested high school speech and debate teams and Constitution Team (We the People) as possible outreach opportunities. Member Stroud volunteered to contact the Gresham Speech and Debate Coach. Outreach efforts will be coordinated through Ms. Leo. Member Denison expressed the importance of presenting to students before the end of the semester. The goal is to get into the schools before Thanksgiving.

Vice Chair Ardner questioned the timing of the outreach as he would like to forward Subcommittee recommendations to the full Charter Review Committee (CRC) before the Thanksgiving holiday. Chair Hollis expressed his support for pursuing high school outreach even if they are unable to report outcomes to the Council.

Regarding outreach to Gresham's Youth Advisory Committee, Ms. Leo reported applications are currently being sought with the expectation that appointment recommendations will be forwarded to City Council in December.

Member Stroud suggested that in order to get participation, the City may need to offer payment in some form. Chair Hollis requested this be pursued.

## **2. UPDATE FROM BENTON COUNTY, OREGON ELECTIONS**

E-mail correspondence from James Morales, Records & Elections Department Director, Benton County, included in meeting packet. The e-mail addresses commonly asked Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) questions.

## **3. DISCUSSION AND CREATION OF ISSUES/TOPICS TO FOCUS ON AND FOR RECOMMENDING TO CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Chair Hollis asked the Subcommittee to consider the scope of their assignment as to what needs to be produced right now and what should be forwarded to the CRC for clarification or as a recommendation. Ms. Davis-Larry, citing the March 9, 2022 minutes of the CRC, that the Subcommittee's directive is:

- Public outreach regarding elections
- Solicit more general input regarding the Charter
- Interact with the outreach facilitator

In response to a comment from Member Dresel that the call was to move away from the current voting system (referred to as "first past the post"), Chair Hollis inquired if the Subcommittee was ready to report to the CRC what they have learned about voting methods and to recommend STAR or Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).

Member Ardner responded he is unable to make such recommendations until the Subcommittee reaches a recommendation on Districts and election results are known as to the initiatives in Multnomah County and the City of Portland to adopt RCV.

Member Fier spoke in support of recommending STAR. Member Denison responded this will cause confusion if the surrounding municipalities adopt RCV.

Chair Hollis recapped that the Subcommittee is supportive of STAR or RCV dependent of what surrounding jurisdictions do in the November election. The Subcommittee agreed to compile a list, for forwarding to the CRC, of what they have been working on asking for confirmation if this is what the CRC wants them to be considering.

Member Stroud recalled that public outreach is a top tier item for the Subcommittee which leads to voting method. She furthered that Participatory Budgeting may be a part of the educational outreach. Vice Chair Ardner expressed that Participatory Budgeting does not fall into elections. Chair Hollis offered this is a good item to take to the CRC for clarity.

Member Stroud offered to compile a list, based on previous meeting agendas, of accomplishments and activities the Subcommittee has undertaken since its creation. (See attached.)

Chair Hollis asked for creation of a list of Subcommittee items they are currently working on and items they need to work on. He will present the list to the CRC at the 10/24/2022 meeting and ask for clarification if the Subcommittee is meeting the CRC's expectations.

### **Motion**

Member Fier moved that the Subcommittee inform the CRC that "first past the post" is not an option for voting.

Seconded: Dresel.

Motion passed on vote of 6-yes, 0-no, 0-absentions

Following comments regarding the motion, Member Fier made the following motion:

I move to rescind the previous motion and replace it with this one:  
I move we inform the Full Committee that as a voting system, the Sub Committee doesn't endorse the voting system known as "First Past the Post;" because newer voting systems provide better equity and election integrity and ensure our residents' voices are accurately referenced in our election results.

Member Dresel seconded.

Motion passed on vote of 6-yes, 0-no, 0-absentions

Subcommittee members compiled the following list of items on the work they have undertaken and items needing CRC guidance and clarification. Chair Hollis will present the list at the upcoming CRC meeting and will inquire as to the CRC's deadline for the Subcommittee's final report.

- Voting Systems
  - First Past the Post
  - Ranked Choice Voting
  - STAR
  
- Districts
  
- Plurality v Majority Votes
  
- Campaign Finance

- Term Limits
- Council/Mayor Compensation
- Community Engagement
  - Removal of Barriers
  - Equity
- Participatory Budgeting
- Statement of form of government (role of elected officials) codified in City Charter (currently stated in Gresham Revised Code 2.10)

#### **4. OTHER ITEMS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Member Dresel asked that an expert be invited to a Subcommittee to lead the members through a mock vote using STAR and RCV. He recalled CRC Member Keathley expressing interest in participating in the mock exercise. By consensus it was agreed to postpone the mock exercise until after the November election.

Vice Chair Ardner inquired if the Lewis and Clark College professors have completed their work or if additional reports are forthcoming. Ms. Leo responded that the professors submitted two memos addressing the Subcommittee's issues and that a Gresham population by race/ethnicity map will be delivered in November. Chair Hollis asked Vice Chair Ardner to work with Ms. Leo regarding outstanding questions.

By consensus, the Subcommittee requested a glossary of terms with definitions so there is clarity as to terms used in their report.

Chair Hollis advised the members that at their next meeting they will have direction from the CRC. The Subcommittee will further focus on issues and topics to complete.

**Next Meeting:** November 2, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

**City of Gresham Charter Review Subcommittee**  
**Overview of Accomplishments**  
**Compiled by Dana Stroud, Charter Review Committee and Subcommittee Member**  
**Based on Subcommittee Agendas**  
**Created: October 19, 2022**

**Governance**

- Elect Chair and Vice Chair of subcommittee (March 24 2022).
- Discuss broad plans for meeting times, community engagement & which experts we want to educate us. (March 24 2022)
- Identify subcommittee values; draft mission statement. (April 20 2022)
- Finalize CRC subcommittee mission statement based on shared values. (May 4, 2022)
- Review subcommittee prioritization of ideas with Miro board (Oct 5, 2022)

**Election Reform Decision-Making**

- Discuss list of possible election-related questions for Law professors Dr. Todd Lochner and Dr. Ellen Seljan. (April 27 2022)
- Share what we have uncertainty about and what else is needed. (May 25, 2022)
- Debate about ranked choice / STAR voting methods and what committee members need to flush out decision-making processes. (June 22, 2022)
- Discuss additional questions for law professors Dr. Seljan and Dr. Lochner. (June 29, 2022)
- Review subcommittee priority board (June 29, 2022)
- Discuss memo #2 on election-related questions by Dr. Seljan and Dr. Lochner (Oct 5, 2022)
- Review data from Benton County elections when they switched to Rank Choice Voting (Oct 19, 2022)
- Presentation from law professors Dr. Seljan and Dr. Lochner on memo #2 (Oct 12, 2022)

**Community Engagement Efforts**

- Vote for facilitators to assist with community engagement, lead guided discussions with community members and groups who may self-identify as a member of a traditionally marginalized community; report back to the committee and to the community. (April 6 2022)
- Meet with the facilitator and discuss the plan for robust engagement with community members (June 1, 2022)
- Discuss a list of possible in-person events & logistics around booth setup (June 1-15, 2022)
- Update from facilitator regarding ice-breaker questions; translation app recommendations; stipends for focus groups. (June 15, 2022)
- Finalize questions for CRC subcommittee online survey. (May 4, 2022)

- Update from facilitator on outreach efforts (Sep 21, 2022)
- Review results of in-person and online survey data with a visual mindmap (Oct 5, 2022)
- \*Pending an update once we receive data from the facilitator\*
- Update on youth outreach & filling in outstanding demographic data gaps from online survey data (Oct 12, 2022)
- Develop a plan for youth engagement with local high school civics & debate teams for missing demographic data (Oct 19, 2022)

### **Education & Presentations**

- Presentation from City of Gresham community engagement team. (30 March 2022)
- Presentation from City of Gresham DEI Manager to discuss ways to engage diverse groups within the community better. (30 March 2022)
- Presentation from City of Gresham policy analyst Larry Morgan. (30 March 2022)
- Presentation from Sightline Institute (April 13 2022)
- Presentation from the Equal Vote Coalition (April 13 2022)
- Presentation from Healthy Democracy. (April 20 2022)
- Presentation from STAR vote team. (April 20 2022)
- Presentation from Coalition of Communities of Color. (April 27 2022)
- Presentation by Fairvote (May 11, 2022)
- Presentation by Oregon Ranked Choice Vote (May 11, 2022)
- Presentation by City Club of Portland. (May 18, 2022)
- Presentation from More Equitable Democracy (June 22, 2022)



**RESOLUTION NO. 3478**

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE 2021 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE GRESHAM CHARTER OF 1978 AND SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO COUNCIL DETAILING RECOMMENDED CHARTER CHANGES**

**THE CITY OF GRESHAM FINDS:**

On May 18, 2021, the Council passed Resolution 3453, which, among other things, dissolved the 2019 Charter Review Committee, and established an appointment process for a 2021 CRC (CRC), with each councilmember nominating two members to serve on the body, subject to the consent of the entire Council.

At the October 19, 2021, City Council Business Meeting and in accordance with Resolution 3453, the Council appointed 13 members to the CRC and granted Councilor Piazza leave to nominate another applicant to the CRC, as one of her original nominees was not appointed to the CRC (Agenda Item E-3). As part of the discussion regarding Agenda Item E-3, there was general consensus to have the CRC consider and make a recommendation on whether to place a ward/districting system measure on the ballot.

At the November 2, 2021, City Council Business meeting, Councilor Piazza nominated Tim Fier to serve on the CRC, and the Council approved the nomination. A list of the 14 members appointed to the CRC is attached hereto as Exhibit A. As part of the discussion, there was a general consensus to provide the CRC ample time to review the Charter and complete its duties.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF GRESHAM RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The CRC shall submit proposed recommended Charter changes to the Council in the form of a Final Report. The Report shall be completed and delivered to the Manager on or before January 31, 2023, whereafter the Council shall review the CRC's recommendations and may, in its discretion, advance any recommended Charter amendments to the voters.

**Section 2.** The CRC shall consider and make a recommendation whether to place a ward/districting system measure on the ballot. The recommendation shall include, but not be limited to, information regarding the preferred type of ward/districting system, if any (*i.e.*, number of wards/districts, number of councilors from each ward/district, and/or a combination of ward/district and at-large positions), the potential drawbacks and benefits of each ward/districting system considered and the City's current at-large system, and information deemed necessary to successfully transition to a ward/district election system (*i.e.*, preferred method(s) in drawing ward/district boundaries and other related issues). Notwithstanding Section 1, the CRC may choose to submit its recommendation to the Council upon completion. The Council may thereafter, in its discretion, consider placing the CRC's recommendation on the November 2022 ballot.

**Section 3.** The CRC may recommend any other proposed Charter changes it deems necessary in its Final Report.

**Section 4.** The CRC shall submit status updates to the Council upon request, and may request Council guidance and direction as necessary to complete its duties.

**Section 5.** The City Attorney, after consultation with the CRC Chair and Manager, shall set the dates and times of all CRC meetings.

**Section 6.** After the Council completes its review of the Final Report, the CRC shall be dissolved. If needed, the Council may extend the term of the CRC.

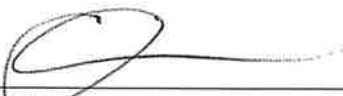
Yes: Stovall, Gladfelter, Piazza, Morales, DiNucci, Jones-Dixon, Palmero


No: None

Absent: None


Abstain: None

Passed by the Gresham City Council on November 16, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina Vetter  
City Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Stovall  
Mayor

Approved as to Form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin R. McConnell  
City Attorney

## **2021 Charter Review Committee Members**

Listed in alphabetical order:

Joseph Andaya

John Ardner

Jacob Cleverley

Tim Fier

Amanda Gayken

Jack Hollis

Cathy Keathley

Britt McConn

Emanuel McFadden Jr.

Jacquenette McIntire

Michelle Reid

Nancy R. Seebert

Dana Stroud

Diana Marcela Wash

# EXCERPT OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2022

## CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE

The members discussed the formation of a subcommittee to focus on public outreach. The committee identified the following tasks for the subcommittee:

- 1.) Solicit community feedback regarding the City's election system;
- 2.) Solicit more general community feedback regarding other matters related to the City Charter; and
- 3.) Interface with the community outreach efforts provided by the City and interact with a facilitator.

Member McConn nominated Jack Hollis, Marcella Wash, Christopher Dresel, Dana Stroud, and Shelley Denison to serve on the subcommittee. Member Keathley seconded the nominations. Without objection, the subcommittee was formed and Members Hollis, Wash, Dresel, Stroud, and Denison were appointed to the subcommittee.