

JOHN ARDNER
SHELLEY DENISON
CHRISTOPHER DRESEL

TIM FIER
JACK HOLLIS
DANA STROUD

**GRESHAM CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE –
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2022
OPEN SESSION – 1 PM
VIA ZOOM MEETING (SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW)**

The Gresham City Charter Review Committee will be holding the
December 14th Meeting at 1 P.M. via Zoom Meeting.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://greshamoregon.zoom.us/j/82945219273?pwd=cDhTRWhzcEFWTkY6ZzBibDBhT2xBdz09>

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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 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 or (503) 618-2508.

**GRESHAM CITY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE –
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2022**

1. PUBLIC COMMENT/TESTIMONY

2. VOTER DISTRICTS DISCUSSION

3. OTHER ITEMS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

December 7, 2022 Meeting

Committee Members Present:

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

Absent:

Christopher Dresel

Staff Present:

Kevin McConnell, City Attorney
Jane Leo, Policy Analyst
Margarita Contreras, Admin Assistant

Chair Hollis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT/TESTIMONY

Via email, Carol Rulla requested amendment of the November 30, 2022, meeting minutes regarding her support of districts. The amendment was approved by consensus of the Subcommittee members present.

2. VOTER DISTRICTS DISCUSSION

Chair Hollis directed the members to the “Districting Questions” in the meeting packet.

Question 1: Should the City of Gresham adopt electoral boundaries from which members of the City Council are elected, with the exception of the Mayor?

Following comments by all members, the Subcommittee agreed by consensus to recommend Districts.

At the request of the members, Mr. McConnell provided a review of what the Subcommittee should consider in making their recommendation regarding districts. He also spoke to the Voting Rights Act and the Oregon Secretary of State’s directive for creating districts. Ms. Leo summarized the provisions of Resolution 3478, which requires the Charter Review Committee to:

- Recommend whether to place a ward/district system measure on the ballot;
- Preferred type of ward/districting system;
- Pros/Cons of At-Large and of Districts;
- Other information deemed necessary to successfully transition to ward/district system.

Member Denison’s inquiry as to whether the Subcommittee recommendation could include that Districts be created by an independent commission and that legal directives—such as those from the Oregon Secretary of State—be followed was confirmed by Ms. Leo.

Question 2: How many Districts should there be? Why?

Question 3: How many City Council members shall be elected from each District?

Question 4: Why is this the optimal choice?

The Subcommittee discussed each of the questions and their inter-relationship.

Regarding the Community Outreach findings as to whether the support is for direct representation or proportional representation, Chair Hollis, Vice Chair Ardner and Member Stroud spoke to the need to have the findings clarified. After a discussion of what information was needed and how the question should be phrased, Member Stroud volunteered to forward the question to Ms. Leo for distribution to the Subcommittee members.

Members have a deadline of December 9 for submitting any edits to the question. Once comment is received from Subcommittee members, and incorporated into the ask, Ms. Leo was directed to forward the question to Outreach Facilitator Shani Harris-Bagwell.

Member Denison volunteered to review and analyze the Community Outreach Report's data/cross tabs and report her findings at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Districting Questions 2 and 3 were tabled until a response is received from Shani Harris-Bagwell and Member Denison has time to review the raw data.

Regarding Districts, Vice Chair Ardner posed the questions of a hybrid wherein some City Council members are elected by District and others are elected At-Large.

At this time, Carol Rulla was invited to provide Public Comment. She spoke to the hybrid model, districts including multi-member districts, candidates, and City Council salaries. She suggested a question for the Professors from Lewis & Clark College.

Chair Hollis asked for each member's comments on a hybrid district system. By consensus, the Subcommittee expressed no support for that system.

Ms. Leo summarized the Decisions and Outstanding Items from the meeting:

- Support Districts with Mayor elected At-Large
- Oppose a hybrid district system
- Outstanding Matters:
 - Number of Districts
 - Multi or Single Member Districts
 - Staggered Terms – in District or by District

Chair Hollis spoke to questions he would like Professor Lochner, Lewis & Clark College, to address at the January 4, 2023, meeting of the Subcommittee: Will multi-member districts create proportional representation in Gresham? What is needed to achieve proportional representation, such as number of districts and number of Councilors? What should be considered to achieve proportionality?

3. UPDATE ON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Ms. Leo confirmed that presentation requests were sent to the Gresham area high school principals and to the Gresham High School Debate coach. She will contact each recipient by the end of the week to inquire as to their interest in scheduling a presentation.

4. OTHER ITEMS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting dates:

Subcommittee: December 14, 2022, and January 4, 2023

Charter Review Committee: December 12, 2022

Vice Chair Ardner shared his intent to ask the Charter Review Committee to accept an amendment to the Subcommittee's Voting System recommendation. There was no objection as the edit does not alter the recommendation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.