

**Charter Review Commission**

June 26, 2019

**Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Louise Miller (Co-Chair), Tim Ceis, Joe Fain, Elizabeth Ford, David Heller, Michael Herschensohn, Sean Kelly, Linda Larson, Clayton Lewis, Marcos Martinez, Toby Nixon (via telephone), Rob Saka, Beth Sigall, Alejandra Tres (via telephone), Kinnon Williams and Sung Yang.

**Excused:**

Ian Goodhew, Nat Morales, Nikkita Oliver, Brooks Salazar and Ron Sims.

**Council and Executive Staff:**

Patrick Hamacher, Director of Legislative Analysis, Calli Knight, External Relations Specialist, and Mac Nicholson, Director of Government Relations.

**Also in Attendance:**

Mike Sinsky and Mari Isaacson, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys, King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Co-Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

 There was no one present to provide public comment.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Williams moved approval of the minutes of the May 22, 2019 meeting. There being no objections, the minutes were approved**.**

**Review and approve selected proposals from sub-committees**

Transparency and Accountability

* Language related to the initiative and referendum process was agreed upon by the Elections Department, Executive staff and Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (PAO). Primarily the change brings the Charter into line with state law and the County Code. Section 270.75 is new. This item will move forward to the second round of public engagement.
* Budgeting system proposal: Waiting for clarification from the Executive’s office regarding the origination of appropriation ordinances by the County Council outside of the budget process. This item will be deferred for discussion at the commission’s September meeting.
* Removal process for elected officials: The subcommittee has agreed on language for the removal of elected officials (except judges) from office. The Courts definition of malfeasance and misfeasance, is it an objective legal standard or have the courts left it up to the legislative body, will be provided. This item will move forward with the understanding that more information is to come.
* Sheriff as an appointed position: The sub-committee is recommending that the position of sheriff be changed to an appointed position. The PAO will provide feedback regarding how things would work if the election of sheriff and the change to the Charter making it an appointed position were on the same ballot. The Executive’s thoughts on this will be provided. This item will move forward to the second round of public engagement. (There were two objections.)
* Increase independence of the Public Defender: Additional information was provided in the meeting materials regarding increasing the independence of the public defender. This information will be discussed in conjunction with the public engagement comments. The King County Public Defense Advisory Board will be invited to give a brief presentation regarding the recent letter they sent to the commission concerning their proposed amendment to the charter.

Equity for All

* Changes to Charter Review Commission process: Change the time frame for the convening of the Charter Review Commission from every ten years to every five years. This item will not move forward.
* Commission membership: Change the membership of the Commission to require inclusion of specified representation for various groups. It was agreed that the following sentence would move forward: “The Charter Commission shall be reflective of the County in terms of its racial and ethnic diversity, age, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, language, and geography.” This item will move forward to the second round of public engagement.
* Additions to the non-discrimination language were proposed. This item will move forward to the second round of public engagement pending further information from staff.
* Add the following concept to section 550, Career Service Positions, of the Charter: “such other leadership positions as determined by ordinance”. This item will move forward to the second round of public engagement.
* The sub-committee will meet again to refine their remaining recommendations and bring them back to the full Commission in September.

**Scheduling and next steps**

* Next meeting – September 25, 2019
* Other meeting dates – October 9 and 23, November 6 and 20, 2019

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.