



King County

Charter Review Commission

February 19, 2019
The Officers Club at Magnuson Park
Community Outreach Meeting

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Louise Miller (Co-Chair, Tim Ceis, David Heller, Sean Kelly, Michael Herschensohn, Sean Kelly, Clayton Lewis, Jeff Natter, Rob Saka, Brooks Salazar, Alejandra Tres, and Kinnon Williams.

Excused:

Joe Fain, Elizabeth Ford, Ian Goodhew, Linda Larson, Marcos Martinez, Nat Morales, Toby Nixon, Nikkita Oliver, Beth Sigall, Ron Sims and Sung Yang.

County Councilmembers, Council and Executive Staff:

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

Also in Attendance:

Meeting facilitator Betsy Daniels, Co-President, Triangle Associates Inc., and Mishu Pham-Whipple and Kizz Prusia, Project Associates, Triangle Associates, Inc.

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. and the Commissioners made self-introductions. Councilmember Dembowski welcomed all in attendance and provided some historical background in regard to the King County Charter.

Overview of Agenda/Meeting Protocols

Ms. Daniels explained the process for the evening.

Charter Review Overview

Patrick Hamacher provided a presentation regarding the history of the Charter and the Commission, an overview of prior changes to the Charter, an outline of the Charter process, and a summary of the primary topics that the current Commission is addressing.

Small Group Instruction

Attendees were asked to break into two groups consisting of both the public and Commission members to address the topics listed on the handout provided along with any other relevant topics of interest.

Small Group Report Out

Group 1:

- Civilian oversight of law enforcement: Potential union pushback related to civilian law enforcement oversight.
- Which County officials should be elected? Generally in favor of more elections.
- Public financing of campaigns: Mostly pro public financing although there were concerns regarding how it would be paid for and some taxation concerns were expressed.
- Surplus land for housing: The County should have the power to sell land for affordable housing. These would be considered on a case-by-case basis using developed criteria.
- Representation of the family of the deceased in inquests: All should have representation.
- Ranked-choice voting: More confusing and would require more voter education. It would, however, bring a more equitable structure to the voting process.
- Size of the County Council: Yes with the County's population growth, more members would provide more direct contact for constituents.
- Meeting the demand: Get light rail done sooner.

Group 2:

- Civilian oversight of law enforcement and surplus land for housing were both important to the group.
- Ranked-choice voting had some interesting pros, but overall it is probably more complicated than it is worth.
- There were a lot of questions about how each of these would be implemented.

Public Comment

Members of the public commented on what brought them to this meeting.

Wrap Up

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.