



Multnomah County Charter Review Committee

MINUTES

December 16, 2015
Multnomah Building
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Room 315
Portland, OR 97214

Meeting: Charter Review Committee was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Members present: Kirsten Leonard, Carol Chesarek, Liz Trojan, Justin Freeman, Keith Mosman, Mark Sturbois, David Robertson, Juan Carlos Ordonez, John Vandermosten, Victoria Purvine, Jeanna Hall, Moses Ross

Members absent: Samantha Alloy, Paul Koch, Michael Cummings

Staff Present: Marco Circosta, Cate Schneider, Marissa Madrigal, Jacquie Weber, Christian Gaston

Approved minutes: November 18, 2015 minutes approved

Introductions and approval of past meeting minutes: No changes were made to November 18 meeting minutes.

Received public testimony: No written or public testimony present.

Multnomah County Overview Presentation: Marissa Madrigal and Jacquie Weber give an overview presentation of Multnomah County. Powerpoint presentation has been made available on Charter Review Committee webpage.

Follow up questions include how the Office of Citizen Involvement fits into the structure of Multnomah County. Marissa clarified that the Office of Citizen Involvement is independent from

the Board of County Commissioners but their budget is set by the Board. A clarifying question was asked around the Board's authority over the County's tax system. Marissa explains that the Tax Assessor is an employee of the County but is an agent of the State of Oregon's Department of Revenue when interpreting tax law. The question was brought up regarding how the Charter Review Committee can address the many prominent concerns faced by community members. Marissa described it as a conversation that needs to happen at all levels but is unsure of how to implement these changes into the County Charter. Jacquie reiterates how the Charter is more of a constitution. A question was present regarding if it was possible for the Charter Review Committee to address the problem of homelessness. Christian discussed how housing and homelessness can be understood as a lack of funding. Barriers as policy makers are frequently found in the State constitution, not in the County Charter.

A conversation was had around whether or not the Charter Review Committee should look at governance procedures or seek to explore policy options that can be impacted by the committee. Arguments were made in favor of utilizing the committees time focused on governance issues.

Jacquie Weber continued with the overview presentation with slides from the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). The Multnomah County Home Rule Charter was established in 1967. Information was illustrated listing shared state and county services as well as the services the county is responsible for. The question was asked regarding how a commissioner steps down to pursue other elected office. Timing plays an important part of how the seat is filled when a commissioner leaves office. There is an interim designee to fill the seat or if the commissioner resigns before the final year of the term the Board appoints the interim replacement.

Define Charter subjects for review and form subcommittees:

The topic areas that were brought up at the previous committee meeting were put into groups to be examined by subcommittees. The end result of the discussion formed the following subcommittees:

Green Subcommittee: Mark Sturbois, Carol Chesarek, Kirsten Leonard, David Robertson, Victoria Purvine

- Appointed sheriff
- Jail administration
- County administrator

Yellow Subcommittee: John Vandermosten, Jeanna Hall, Mark Sturbois, Carol Chesarek

- Term limit of two terms
- Commissioners stepping down from office to seek another elected office
- District boundaries

Gray Subcommittee: Keith Mosman, Victoria Purvine, Kirsten Leonard

- Compensation revisions
- Technical revisions
- County surety bond

Purple Subcommittee: Juan Carlos Ordonez, Justin Freeman, John Vandermosten

- County funding
- Digital inclusion
- Climate change
- Early education
- Job creation
- Livability
- Health Department
- Mental Health
- Emergency preparedness
- Transportation funding/bridge funding
- Affordable housing

Subcommittee members organize among themselves: The final moments of the meeting were dedicated to committee members organizing themselves to determine logistics of their upcoming subcommittee meetings.

Closing comments: No closing comments were issued.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.