



**Charter Review Commission  
Minutes  
WebEx Board Meeting  
April 27, 2021 7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Chair Fred Evans, and members John Becker, Harold Hodges, Jack Kelly, Sally Kram, Robert Kurnick, Anita Powell, Izola Shaw, Marissa Valeri, and Robert Wright were present. David Gottesman was absent.

**Staff Present:** Acting City Attorney Cynthia Walters, City Clerk Sara Ferrell, City Manager Management Assistant Melissa Wiak was absent.

**I. Welcome—New Member**

City Clerk Sara Ferrell opened the meeting via WebEx at 7:05 p.m. Chair Evans welcomed all those present and welcomed the newest members of the Commission, Sally Kram and Kevin Owen.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 Charter Review Commission meeting, as amended.

Moved by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Valeri, and approved unanimously.

**III. Report on Team Assignments**

Mayor and Council Working Group:

Commissioner Wright reported that he emailed each commissioner a list of “former candidates to the City Council” to interview. This list will be approved by the Commission at its May 11, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Powell suggested expanding the council by two members to give the City more diverse representation.

Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE) Working Group:

Commissioner Becker provided information regarding regarding roles and responsibilities for each member of the BSE and various county involvements in their election process.

Commissioner Hodges suggested adding a column regarding representation as it relates to a jurisdiction's population.

Commissioners Powell and Valeri suggested the BSE reach out to Montgomery County's Redistricting Committee to see if they can offer valuable information for the BSE to include in their report.

Commissioner Kelly stated two draft issue papers are available for commissioners to view. He indicated that specific interview questions need to be tailored to each interviewee.

Commissioner Valeri noted that the method in which the BSE conducts their interviews be adjusted to reflect the current COVID-19 environment.

#### **IV. Communications/Outreach—Report from Zola**

##### Election Process/Franchise Expansion Working Group:

Commissioner Shaw reported that each subgroup is continuing to research and report on the subtopics. She indicated that the subgroup would like to conduct a demonstration regarding "rank choice voting" at a future meeting.

Commissioner Hodges indicated the group is developing a "cheat sheet" for to enhance voter education. Each pamphlet that will be given to voters will have an explanation of terms or issues that will be seen on a ballot.

Commissioner Shaw presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding a Communications and Outreach Plan.

Commissioner Hodges commented that the working group should consider adding outdoor, in-person outreach.

Commissioner Wright suggested the evaluation should be how many voters turn out as a percentage in the next election compared to the prior election. Additionally, he indicated that Australia implemented a poll tax for citizens who do not vote in elections, which is an incentive to voting.

Commissioner Kelly stated that the Commission needs to decipher between recommended revisions to the City Code versus the City Charter.

Commissioner Valeri stated that the Communications and Outreach Plan should focus on both short- and long-term goals and evaluations.

**V. Old/New Business**

Commissioner Valeri indicated the the subgroups should start to present their topics to the Commission for the commissioners to engage in freeform discussions.

**VI. Future Meetings**

Tuesday, May 11, 2021—7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25, 2021—7:00 p.m.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Motion:** to adjourn.

Moved by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hodges and approved unanimously.