



**Charter Review Commission
Minutes
WebEx Board Meeting
May 31, 2022 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Chair Kevin Owens and members Harold Hodges, Jack Kelly, Sally Kram, Robert Kurnick, Anita Powell, Izola Shaw, Marissa Valeri, and Robert Wright. John Becker was absent.

Staff Present: City Clerk Sara Ferrell, Deputy City Clerk Danny Winborne, and Management Assistant Melissa Wiak were present.

I. Welcome

City Clerk Sara Ferrell opened the meeting via WebEx at 7:06 p.m. Chair Owens welcomed all those present.

II. Approval of Minutes—May 17, 2022

Chair Owen clarified that in “Part V—Status Report for each Working Group”, “Mayor and Council”, the “Resign to Run” legal opinion will be rendered by the City Attorney’s Office with the advice from the Maryland State Attorney General’s Office.

Additionally, the Mayor and Council working group will present its report to the Commission at its June 14, 2022 meeting, and not at its May 31, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Shaw stated that the following sentence should be added to “Part V—Status Report for each Working Group”, “Board of Supervisors of Elections”—“other commissioners felt that that racial equity and social justice lens is applicable to the topics the Board of Supervisors of Elections working group addressed in its report.”

Motion: To table the minutes from May 17, 2022, at the Commission’s June 7, 2022 meeting, and approve them at the June 7 2022 meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Wright, opposed by Commissioner Valeri, and approved. Commissioner Kram abstained.

**III. Approval of Appendix Items
a. Town Hall Record**

Chair Owens presented Appendix A—Town Hall Record. Discussion took place. The Commission agreed to include Commissioner Hodges’ data as “Appendix C”, which will be voted on at the Commission’s June 7, 2022 meeting.

Motion: To adopt Appendix A—Town Hall Record, as presented

Moved by Commissioner Wright. Seconded by Commissioner Valeri. Opposed by Commissioner Hodges, and approved.

b. Survey Responses

Chair Owens presented the appendix regarding Appendix B—Survey responses. Discussion took place. Commissioner Shaw suggested that the public survey be placed before the Town Hall. Commissioner Valeri suggested deleting the word “Slido” from the “Analytics Report” from the cover page. Commissioner Kram suggested adding a footnote in the process report explaining the “Slido” software program.

Motion: To adopt Appendix B—Survey Responses, as amended

Moved by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Powell, approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Proposal for Roll Call of Votes in the Final Report

Discussion took place regarding if the names of the commissioners should be attached to votes regarding each subcommittee’s report.

Motion: The roll call vote will be taken after each subcommittee’s report recommendations to the Mayor and Council, and each commissioner’s name will be recorded with their vote.

Moved by Commissioner Valeri, seconded by Commissioner Kelly. Opposed by Commissioner Shaw, and approved.

V. Discussion of Proposal for Commissioners to Submit Statements to the Record

Discussion took place regarding statements, issues, or concerns, commissioners can submit that are not addressed in the report. It will not be included in the report; rather, it will be a statement for the record. Chair Owens will draft a cover letter to the Mayor and Council regarding these personal statements. Personal statements must be submitted to the Commission by June 10, 2022.

VI. BSE Working Group Report

a. Presentation by Commissioner Kelly

b. Issue J: Increasing the number of members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections

Discussion took place.

Option 1: to maintain the status quo regarding the number of members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Supported by Commissioners Kelly and Kram. Commissioner Kelly will take the lead on drafting the minority opinion.

Option 3: adding two BSE members.

Supported by Commissioners Wright, Hodges, Valeri, Powell, and Chair Owen. Commissioner Wright will take the lead on drafting the majority opinion.

None of the above: Commissioner Shaw will write her own opinion.

c. Issue K: Lengthening the terms for members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections

Discussion took place.

Option 1: to maintain the status quo regarding the lengthening the terms for members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Supported by Commissioners Kelly, Wright, Powell, Shaw, Hodges, and Kram. Commissioner Kelly to take lead on drafting the majority opinion.

Option 3: Lengthening the terms for members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections to 8-year terms. Supported by Commissioners Valeri and Chair Owen. Commissioner Valeri to take lead on drafting the minority opinion.

d. Issue L: The appointment process for the members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections

Discussion took place.

Option 2: All BSE members will be appointed by the Mayor and Council.

Supported by Commissioners Kelly, Wright, Kram, and Owen. Commissioner Kelly to take lead on drafting the majority opinion.

Option 4: All BSE members will be elected.

Supported by Commissioner Hodges, who will write his own opinion.

Option 5: All BSE members will be appointed by an independent commission.

Supported by Commissioners Valeri, Shaw, and Powell. Commissioner Valeri will take lead on drafting the minority opinion.

- e. **Issue M: The required duties of the Board of Supervisors of Elections to include meeting with the Mayor and Council and participating in meetings with the Mayor and Council and timely responding to information requests**

Discussion took place.

Option 1: to maintain the status quo, but with an emphasis on raising concerns about the independence of the BSE.

Supported by Commissioner Hodges, Kelly, Valeri, Wright, Kram, Shaw, Powell, and Chair Owen. Commissioner Valeri will take lead on drafting the majority opinion.

Commissioner Becker is recorded as “not voting.”

VII. Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

VIII. Future Meetings

- Tuesday, June 7, 2022—7:00 p.m. –the Election Process/Franchise Expansion subgroup will present their report
- Tuesday, June 14, 2022—7:15 p.m.—the Mayor and Council subgroup will present their report

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Motion: to adjourn.

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