



Charter Review Commission

City of San José

MINUTES

<https://sanjoseca.zoom.us/j/91220304185>

6:00 PM

Monday, March 8, 2021

Present: Chair- Frederick Ferrer; Members- Barbara Marshman, Christina Johnson, Dan Bozzuto, Elizabeth Monley, Elly Matsumura, Enrico Callender, Frank Maitiski (6:29 p.m.), Garrick Percival, George Sanchez, Huy Tran, Jeremy Barousse, José Posadas, Lan Diep (6:39 p.m.), Linda Lezotte, Louis Barocio, Maria Fuentes, Sammy Robledo, Sherry Segura, Thi Tran, Veronica Amador, Young Zhao

Absent: Magnolia Segol

Staff: Lawrence Grodeska, Consultant; Megan Roche, Legislative Secretary; Toni J. Taber, City Clerk; Mark Vanni, Senior Deputy City Attorney

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Days

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Public Record- None

III. Consent Calendar

- a) Approve Charter Review Commission Minutes.**
- b) Approve Commissioner Agreements.**

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Lezotte, seconded by Commissioner Marshman, the Commission moved to adopt both the Charter Review Commission minutes from the meeting dated 2/8/2021 and the Commissioner Agreements. (18-0-3-1; Absent: Maitiski, Diep, Segol; Abstention: Fuentes)

IV. Reports & Information

a) Report from the Chair

The Chair thanked the commissioners for responding to the Chair and Consultant's survey. Seventeen commissioners provided responses, which were reflected in the revised Work Plan document.

b) Report from the Clerk

The City Clerk announced the resignations of Commissioners Saxena and Avila. She

introduced the two new members of the Charter Review Commission, Commissioner Huy Tran from District 4 and Commissioner George Sanchez from District 7.

c) Report from Consultant- None

V. Public Hearing- None

VI. Old Business

a) Discussion and possible action on Charter Review Commission Work Plan.

The City Clerk discussed her memo, which detailed the budget capacity of the Charter Review Commission and available forms of public outreach. Consultant Grodeska noted the new revisions to the Work Plan. Discussion on the item was tabled briefly to allow for item VIIa to be heard. Discussion resumed after VIIa concluded.

Public Comment: Matt King highlighted the importance of informing the community of the purpose and scope of the Charter Review Commission, finding a budget for translations, and reflecting in the Work Plan the suggestions from past guest speakers Ms. Llanes-Fontanilla and Mr. Guevara. Ellina Yin agreed that a budget for community engagement is necessary and also proposed two additional measures for the workplan: civic engagement with a potential “San José Civic Engagement Bill of Rights” and climate strategy. Adrian Gonzales introduced himself as Chair of the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices and hoped to open a regular line of communication between the Board and the Charter Review Commission in order to incorporate campaign finance reforms into the Charter. Blair Beekman envisioned the future of democracy as a process of socialization, with hope that community effort will be reflected in the Work Plan accordingly. Jeffery Buchanan of Working Partnerships USA voiced his support for the proposals from Commissioners Callender and Matsumura and emphasized the importance of meaningful civic engagement through community partnerships. Justin Lardinois addressed the comments of a previous speaker, condemning what he cited as anti-Semitic sentiments.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Callender, and seconded by Vice Chair Johnson, the Work Plan was adopted, with the request for a budget proposal to be added to the next meeting’s agenda and for public hearing to be moved to the meeting scheduled for March 22, 2021. The budget proposal will request additional funding from City Council for: outside counsel, research for qualitative analysis, additional translation services, and for up to ten grassroots organizations to assist civic engagement. (16-4-2; Noes: Diep, Lezotte, Tran, Zhao; Absent: Bozzuto, Segol)

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Fuentes, seconded by Commissioner Callender, and carried unanimously, an addition to the Work Plan was passed for the Commission to evaluate everything moving forward with a lens of economic and racial equity. A friendly amendment from Commissioner Lezotte was accepted to add consideration of gender to the economic and racial equity lens. A friendly amendment was also accepted from

Commissioner Amador for the Commission to collaborate with the Office of Racial Equity. (20-0-2; Absent: Bozzuto, Segol)

VII. New Business

a) Study Session on the history of San José's Charter Review.

This item was taken out of order, during the discussion of Item VIa. Guest speakers Robert Brownstein and John Marshall Collins both served on the City of San José's 1985 Charter Review Commission. They provided insight to the current commissioners, explaining the historical context for why their commission was founded and providing recommendations for the examination of governance structure. Mr. Collins and Mr. Brownstein answered questions posed by commissioners.

Public Comment: Blair Beekman spoke about the future of accountability as a shared process between government and the community, that can be made possible with technology. A caller with the phone number ending in 5140 expressed his lack of support for strong mayor systems of governance and former Mayor Susan Hammer. Crystal expressed her concern for granting more powers to either the City Manager or Mayor and hopes to see less individual power in the system that the Commission selects.

VIII. Public Comment

No member of the public wished to speak.

IX. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2021.

X. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 9:22 p.m.