

City of Bend Charter Review Committee Minutes
August 7, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Charter Review Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017, in the Boardroom at Bend City Hall, 710 NW Wall. Present were committee members Brent Landels, Don Leonard, Katy Brooks, Stephanie Senner, Richard Ross, Kathleen Meehan Coop, Chad Sage, Dan Fishkin, Anne George, Bill Galaway.

Also present: Councilor Bruce Abernethy, Eric King, City Manager, Mary Winters, City Attorney, and Robyn Christie, City Recorder, Ron Boozell, Jesse Foster, KTVZ, Julia Shumway, Bend Bulletin.

2. Welcome and Introductions - Councilor Bruce Abernethy and City Manager Eric King

Councilor Abernethy welcomed the committee and shared the direction from Council included in the resolution.

Each member provided a brief introduction including their community involvement.

Mr. King reviewed the history of Bend's governance and provided a handout.

3. Select Chair

Mr. Galaway and Mr. Landels both shared their interest in serving as chair. They will serve as co-chairs.

4. Review Committee Charge and Public Meeting Procedures – Mary Winters, City Attorney

Ms. Winters reviewed a memo on public meetings law. There was discussion about forming working groups to prepare presentations or draft ballot titles for committee review. Ms. Winters said members of the committee could work with staff on language. A subcommittee created to bring recommendations to the committee would need to be handled as a public meeting.

5. Review Timeline and Meeting Schedule – Robyn Christie, City Recorder

Ms. Christie presented a timeline for the Committee. The Committee will check in with Council about wards at a work session on September 20 or October 4. The next committee meeting is August 24. Starting in September, meetings are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month through December.

6. Presentation of Citizen Charter Review Study

Mr. Landels, Ms. Meehan Coop, Mr. Galaway, Mr. Ross and Mr. Leonard presented Charter Review: Community Opinions & Recommendations. The presentation included pros and cons of an elected mayor, ward systems, and Council pay/support staff.

7. Begin Discussion of Directly Elected Mayor

Mr. Galaway spoke about his observations of the elected mayor system in Beaverton. The mayor has a vision and the community has a chance to choose the mayor. Currently, Bend does not have a democratic process to elect the mayor.

Ms. Meehan Coop hoped an elected mayor would bring a broader vision for the community.

Mr. Leonard commented on factions within the Council positioning for Mayor. It created hard feelings and some conflicts.

Mr. Ross shared his experience working for the city of Gresham. He worked with many mayors on regional committees in the Portland metropolitan area. There was continuity because the mayors were there for multiple terms.

Mr. Landels said the previous Council was split from the first 4-3 vote. He asked about how much authority a mayor should have. He did not support veto power.

Mr. Fishkin needed more information before developing an opinion on an elected mayor.

Ms. Brooks stated that the democratic process is messy. From a business perspective, it is difficult to lobby without a longer term mayor. She was interested in the process for replacing a mayor that leaves during a term.

Mr. Sage thought an elected mayor could help with strategic vision. Procedures and protocols are important as is the job description.

Ms. George was neutral on the topic. She summarized that the issues were that people want to be heard, there may be a fractionalized council, longevity is important, and there are different opinions about the strength of the mayor. She asked to set criteria about what is important to help make a decision.

Ms. Winters shared the importance of a mayor's ability to run a meeting.

Mr. King commented on an individual's capacity to run a meeting and address issues. He urged to not be too reliant on the system to fix a problem. Effectiveness largely depends on the person.

Councilor Abernethy asked to be open to all ideas.

Ms. George asked if the chairs were open to feedback. Mr. King asked if Ms. George would help design the next meeting along with the co-chairs.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Christie
City Recorder

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