

**City of Bend Charter Review Committee Minutes  
September 12, 2017**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Charter Review Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, in the Boardroom at Bend City Hall, 710 NW Wall. Present were committee members Co-Chair Brent Landels, Co-Chair, Katy Brooks, Stephanie Senner, Richard Ross, Kathleen Meehan Coop, Dan Fishkin, Anne George, Bill Galaway, Angela Chisum. Chad Sage and Don Leonard were excused.

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

**2. Accept Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2017**

Meeting minutes were accepted.

**3. Report from Wards Interview Team Questions and Process (10 minutes)**

Mr. Ross explained that the team will interview small groups of elected/appointed officials of six comparable Oregon cities, five with and one without a ward system, during September. The timeline is to conduct interviews by phone before the September 26 meeting. The committee will then summarize each interview as part of its initial report to the Council in October.

The team will interview representatives from Hillsboro, Gresham, Medford, Eugene, Springfield, Corvallis as well as an expert Interview with Phillip Cooper, Professor of Public Administration, Portland State University.

The committee asked to add a question on how wards are determined and if the agencies have had experience in changing or updating boundaries.

Staff will begin scheduling interviews. The interview team would like to provide an update on the information gathered at the interviews at the October 4 Council work session.

**4. Ward Discussion (90 minutes)**

**A. Define the issues we are trying to address with wards.**

The committee completed a matrix to identify issues that may be addressed by establishing wards. The following issues were discussed:

- Lower costs for candidates to run
- Increased geographic diversity in candidates for Council
- Increased geographic diversity for committees and other appointments
- Ensure every Council seat has a candidate

- At-large councilors serve too many constituents – don't have bandwidth to serve whole community
- Increased access to councilors
- Businesses/neighborhoods want to know who to lobby.
- Increased socioeconomic diversity in candidates for Council
- Strengthen neighborhood associations
- Minimize voter confusion of who I vote for?

**B. What information is needed for those who are undecided?**

**C. Discuss ward system models**

The committee discussed various scenarios to evaluate. The scenarios included:

- 6 elected at large with an elected Mayor
- 6 wards with an elected Mayor
- 2 wards, 4 at large council members, elected Mayor
- 4 wards, 2 at large council members, elected Mayor
- 4 quadrants, 2 super wards, elected Mayor
- Multiple councilors per ward in 2 or 3 wards

**5. Council presentation (10 minutes)**

The committee briefly discussed the Council presentation scheduled for October 4. There will be 30 minutes for the presentation. The presentation will focus on the Committee's recommendation regarding wards and note that they had discussed an elected mayor and will continue to work on that topic.

**6. Prep for next meeting and review schedule – next meeting September 26 (10 minutes)**

The next meeting will focus preparing for the Council presentation. The interview team will report on its conversations with other agencies. There was interest in adding COCC and the school district.

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Christie  
City Recorder

Note: *The audio recording failed for this meeting.*