

City of Bend Charter Review Committee Minutes
October 24, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Charter Review Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, in the Boardroom at Bend City Hall, 710 NW Wall. Present were committee members Bill Galaway, Co-Chair, Brent Landels, Co-Chair, Stephanie Senner, Richard Ross, Kathleen Meehan Coop, Chad Sage, Dan Fishkin, Anne George, Don Leonard and Angela Chisum.

Also present: Bruce Abernethy, Sally Russell, Barb Campbell - City Councilors, Mary Winters, City Attorney, Elizabeth Oshel, Associate City Attorney, Robyn Christie, City Recorder, and Julia Shumway, Bend Bulletin.

2. Accept Meeting Minutes from October 10, 2017

Meeting minutes were approved.

Katy Brooks resigned from the committee due to a scheduling conflict.

Ms. Chisum raised the question of public outreach. The group discussed outreach after Council supports an option. The Committee is the community outreach for Council. A public outreach committee may be formed before the May vote.

3. Feedback from City Council via Councilor Abernethy (15 minutes)

Councilor Abernethy shared that Council was appreciative of the work of the Committee. He stated that the more this group is unified the easier it will be for Council to be unified. A super ward is a little too complicated. The Council is more receptive to a 2 year term for Mayor because of the work involved. He thought most Councilors preferred a 4 ward hybrid. Councilor Mosely liked scenario 3. The Council is split on whether Councilors should be elected citywide or by ward. He asked the committee to identify additional elements to encourage more people to run.

Councilor Russell arrived at 4:36 p.m.

4. Ward discussion (45 minutes)

Mr. Landels asked the committee to share “deal breakers” to try to find a scenario that everyone can support.

Ms. George supported 4 wards and 2 at large positions. She could give or take on citywide or ward voting. She preferred scenario 2 because it kept the urban core together.

Mr. Landels wanted a map that allowed for east side representation and looked at natural barriers.

Ms. Senner was concerned about losing a directly elected mayor if wards aren't successful.

Mr. Fishkin thought a 4 ward system with 2 at large and an elected mayor added a layer of confusion. He preferred a 3 ward system with citywide voting which would reduce claims of gerrymandering.

Mr. Sage said the options need to increase geographic diversity.

Mr. Galaway explained that a 3 ward scenario would guarantee that no one area would have a majority of the Council.

Ms. Winters clarified that with a 3 ward scenario, the election of mayor would not occur until 2020.

Ms. Meehan Coop commented that individuals will be concerned with gerrymandering no matter how the lines are drawn.

There was discussion on whether candidates should be elected at large or by district. There was a possibility that the candidate preferred in the ward may not be elected citywide.

Councilor Russell liked the 4 ward scenario, with 2 at large and citywide voting.

Mr. Ross shared that the city of Medford and many cities in Washington have a mix of at large and ward systems.

Councilor Abernethy said voting by ward allows the potential to run a grass roots campaign.

Mr. Leonard would like to see voting within the ward. The candidate will try to touch more people in the ward. He liked the idea of 4 wards.

Ms. Senner wanted to keep the core of the city within one ward.

There was direction to eliminate 4 ward scenarios 1 and 3. The committee needed more time to evaluate the 3 ward scenarios.

Ms. George said it would be a stronger recommendation if the committee could reach agreement. Councilor Campbell said she would like to include a 3 ward option. Councilor Abernethy agreed that there should be two options.

Ms. Senner moved to separate the ward question from the elected mayor question on the ballot. Mr. Sage seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

5. Two At large or Districts (super wards) (30 minutes)

6. Bulletin Editorial and article (15 minutes)

Mr. Fishkin spoke to no responding to the articles. He did not want to get ahead of the city and committee.

Ms. Winters suggested a response could focus on the process and criteria.

Ms. Winters clarified the reasons for basing the boundaries on existing precincts.

7. Mayor, 2 year or 4 year terms (10 minutes)

8. Agenda for next meeting (5 minutes)

Staff will send out maps with landmarks to the committee for voting at the next meeting.

Mr. Galaway asked the committee to be prepared to finalize its recommendation on one 3 ward option and one 4 ward option. The committee will also discuss 2 year or 4 year terms for the mayor and councilors elected by ward or at large. There will be two meetings to finalize the recommendation for the presentation.

Mr. Ross asked to have it stated that the mayor is the political head of the city.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Christie
City Recorder