



**MINUTES
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

MONDAY, September 26th, 2011

7:30 p.m.

ENTRY HALL, 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE, ALBANY

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:35. CRC met in the front hallway of City Hall to be able to unlock doors should any member of the public wish to attend.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Jordan, Baty, Wallace, and O'Keefe present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. April 25, 2011

O'Keefe moved approval with minor formatting changes; Baty seconded; approved unanimously.

3-2. July 25, 2011

Wallace moved approval with request for minutes to be adjusted to use "Councilmember" or "Council member" throughout, rather than both. O'Keefe seconded; approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

6. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

6-1. Charter Section 3.19 - specification of charges for copies of city records

Mayor Javandel advised Chair Jordan to bring the current inconsistency between Charter and City Fee schedule, with pros and cons of different possible solutions and leaving the situation unchanged, to the Council. Jordan noted that the City charges on the order of \$2.75 per page for copies of construction permit records for cost recovery. Baty noted that we do not know the financial implication of making the Fee Schedule consistent with the Charter, and the Committee questioned the significance of the inconsistency. The Committee decided to assess the financial impact to include in a pro-con report to Council. Baty will research the current financial impact.

7. DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

7-1. City Council consideration of the election method review

Jordan relayed that Council consideration of the election method review process was scheduled for its last meeting, but the item was continued to the next meeting without consideration due to the length of the meeting as a result of earlier agenda items. He noted that the agenda item included a suggestion from Council Member Lieber that the Committee include considering a mechanism for directly electing the mayor as a part of the review process.

7-2. Board of Education consideration of the election method review and Charter Chapter VI

Jordan initiated a request to the Board of Education (BOE) about its interest in the Committee's election method review. The BOE placed consideration of this item on its agenda. Jordan attended the meeting. Some BOE members were unaware that Charter Chapter VI governs BOE elections. Jordan asked the BOE what criteria it recommended for judging election methods. BOE members mentioned simplicity, majority rule, diversity of representation and inducing more candidates to run for office. Jordan asked the BOE what community groups the Committee could reach out to regarding the process. The BOE recommended school PTA's. Jordan asked the BOE how often it desired updating on this topic. The BOE requested an update after each of the three steps in the process, which Jordan envisioned as bi monthly. BOE President Low asked the BOE if it would like staff to report back on district versus at large election options in other Districts. The BOE requested such a report.

7-3. Election method review step 1: develop Albany-appropriate criteria for judging methods

- Committee brainstormed possible criteria: most representative, cost, speed, how informative, voter participation, majority rule (as opposed to plurality). Public comment from Beth Pollard (BP, Albany City Manager) on definition of government: "to advance will of majority while protecting rights of minority." This can help promote stability, especially for longer term issues.
- Committee considered if it should use Albany real life examples for criteria evaluation.
- BP asked, what is the existing problem? Committee thought this was the problem statement that belongs at beginning of anything we do. Council may provide guidance to us on what they would find most beneficial from Committee.
- Consider application of criteria, with equal or variable weighting or ranking/prioritization as some options. BP suggests that rather than trying to weight criteria, we could simply use each when evaluating various methods.

7-4. Election method review outreach planning

Committee discussed ideas about how to get public input without showing any personal preferences. A Committee pre-approved outreach package/statement could help. BP mentioned taking the time to announce in person at various meetings that the Committee is reviewing Albany's choice of election method could be more effective than a printed notice for actually getting public interest in the issue. With input from BP, Committee decided members attending meetings to make such an announcement should not have back and forth with groups; rather they should channel public to send input to the Committee via the City or to attend a Committee meeting.

7-5. Update on staff support

Penelope Leach, Director of Recreation and Community Services, contacted Chair Jordan last week offering support such as posting agendas and minutes physically and on the web and providing copies of documents for the meetings. She will not be coming to Committee meetings however. BP noted we need to meet where public can get to us. As the Committee does not have staff, we agreed provisionally to meet in entry lobby of City hall where we can both see any public and open the locked doors for the public.

7-6. Update on accounting of past agendas and minutes, and locating and posting missing back items

Chair Jordan is working on this slowly. Penelope Leach will post back items as they are provided.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Criteria for judging election methods
- Election method review problem statement
- Gabi's research on Charter 3.19 section (re copy page charges)
- Chapter VI - BOE
- Chapter VII - Civil Service

9. ADJOURNMENT

Please note that if you provide your name and address when speaking before the Commission/Committee/Board it will become part of the official public record, which will be posted on the Internet.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall located at 1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany during normal business hours.