

March 31, 2021 Charter Review Commission Regular Meeting

Call to Order: Chair Kevin Ranker called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Roll Call: Sharon Abreu, David Anderson, Bill Appel, Janet Brownell, Kyle Davies, David Dehlendorf, Paul Dossett, Patty Garcia, Tony Ghazel, Richard Grout, Liz Lafferty, Bob O'Connell, Kevin Ranker (Chair), Olivia Roseberry (Vice Chair), Maureen See, Anne Marie Shanks, Tom Starr. Jane Fuller's absence was excused.

Others Present: SJC Auditor Milene Henley, Prosecuting Attorney Randy Gaylord, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Amy Vira, Minor Lile, Alexandra Gayek, Kathryn Hansen (CRC Assistant), and one unidentified caller.

Approval of March 24, 2021 meeting **minutes**.

MOVED by Bill Appel; **SECONDED** by Dick Grout, to approve the Minutes with one correction. Discussion followed. 17 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained. **MOTION PASSED**.

Executive Session. Chair Ranker announced that the Commission would be holding an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter with legal counsel. After members of the public were excused, Chair Ranker called the session to order at 4:05 pm and reminded members that such meetings are confidential. 17 Commission members, Counsels Randy Gaylord and Amy Vira, and CRC Assistant Kathryn Hansen were present via videoconference. The session ended at 4:21 pm; no action was taken.

Members of the public rejoined: Brenda Asterino, Alexandria Gayek, Milene Henley, Minor Lile.

MOVED by Bill Appel; **SECONDED** by Paul Dossett, to waive attorney-client privilege on two documents. Anne Marie Shanks offered a friendly amendment to waive privilege on three documents; amendment accepted. Discussion followed. 9 Ayes, 7 Opposed, 1 Abstained. **MOTION PASSED**.

Amy Vira will proceed with the request for the documents.

County Council member, Christine Minney. Kevin Ranker welcomed Council member Minney and provided a brief overview of CRC duties. Council member Minney has been in office three months and is learning that there are many moving parts to the organization. She is learning about the issues, boards, commissions, and participating with citizens. Ms. Minney took questions about countywide versus district voting, Friday Harbor-County Fire/EMS merger, possible creation of a Climate & Environment office with an elected head, Rights of Nature, Council-County Manager relationship, how the CRC can help get County back on track, three vs. six Council members, frequency of Council meetings, what are her main issues, and financial impacts of CRC Amendments. Kevin thanked Christine for her candor and attitude.

Committee Reports. Chair Ranker asked for Committees to share their ideas.

Tony Ghazel reported on Elections, saying that they have wrapped up their work on seven items. They are prepared to argue both sides of issues and leave the final decision on proposed amendments to the CRC body. Regarding Rank-Choice voting, members desire to hear opposing viewpoints, but must be discerning of possible misinformation.

For future CRC meetings, when a committee is ready to present their findings, they can ask for agenda time. Topics should be prioritized. At that meeting, they will share their findings on the screen and CRC members can ask questions, then vote. Upon receiving CRC input, topics may go back to committee for refinement.

Open for Public Comment. Chair Ranker opened public comment.

Brenda Asterino, Lopez Island. She stated that she is very impressed with what she heard in this meeting but is concerned that Council members cannot have discussion with other members outside of open public meetings. Kevin explained that the Council has work sessions, which allow for greater discussion of topics, followed by their regular Executive meetings.

Alexandra Gayek, Orcas Island. She encouraged members to look at issues beyond pros and cons and to become educated and understand the subjects.

Committee Reports, continued. Discussion continued of Elections committee.

New Business. CRC Budget. Kevin Ranker reminded members that they were initially allocated \$7,000 and, later, received an additional \$7,000 for professional services. Milene Henley observed that \$7,000 will have been expended with the March CRC Assistant's invoice. Kevin stated that he thinks staff is working effectively and he would like to hire a second person to help with research and drafting. They could go back to Council to request additional funding but would prefer not to. There was limited discussion of some steps to reduce costs.

David Dehlendorf requested that meetings be kept on topic and conclude as stated on the agenda. Kevin Ranker will review the agenda and set the ending time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Kathryn Hansen
Recording Secretary

Minutes were approved by consensus at the April 7, 2021 Regular Meeting