



Charter Review Commission (CRC) SPECIAL Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 7, 2021

1. Call to Order 2:04pm

2. Roll Call:

In Attendance: Kevin, Anne Marie, Maureen, Sharon, David D, Dave A, Janet, Patty, Liz, Tom, Kyle, Paul, Dick, Bill, Bob, Jane, Olivia (Tony joined the meeting sometime around 3:30)

Members of the Public: Kathryn Hansen, Randy Gaylord, Minor Lile, Sarah Severn, Janet Alderton, Cindy Wolf, Carl deBoor

3. Climate & Environment Committee Proposal – Anne Marie presented:

Discussion, including:

Questions from David D. and Tom.

Janet: This is a very elegant and clean amendment.

Motion by Liz, seconded by Bob, to approve the Climate and Environment amendment.

Discussion, including:

Kevin: We may need to cite the codes in this amendment – that would just add more detail. Will be following up on that and making a recommendation to Anne Marie.

Dick: Friendly amendment to add the title of the resolution or add that the Committee described here would supersede any previously-appointed committee/commission.

Liz accepted friendly amendment.

Discussion, including:

Kevin: Suggested that, since there are questions, that before a vote, to pull up and quickly go through Randy's memo in case there's anything there we might add in.

Bob agreed.

David D: As long as we vote on it as the final version.

Kyle shared Randy's memo on the screen.

Kevin: We're adding the name of the resolution (20-2020).

The CRC members went through Randy's suggested edits.

Maureen: Add "oversight" definition in findings.

David D: Still very uncomfortable with the word "oversight". Many definitions of the word.

Bob: Suggested a short definition of oversight. Kevin added to this definition.

Bill: Commented on the law regarding the definition of "oversight" – include this language in this paragraph – simply describe the nature of that oversight – what the Commission will be doing with the departments. Bill likes "oversight" because it includes *advocating*, not just advising – we want to make sure there's room for that in the definition.

Bob: Suggested adding a sentence: "...defined as the duties and responsibilities described herein."

Bill approved of that language.

A few words were removed.

Anne Marie: Suggested adding a sentence in the second paragraph after "Members shall serve 4-year terms", to the effect of: "The Commission established in this Charter shall supersede any other committee or commission established by this Section 10".

David D: Be clear that you're talking about the committee established by the SJCC.

Kevin: It needs to say "... previous commission established to advise ... and Climate Change"

Bob: This amendment does not include language that no one is getting paid or for any staffing or funding for the commission to operate. We should provide for that.

Kevin: It says it's going to be staffed.

Anne Marie: The SJCC will have to arrive at what the budget will be.

Kevin: We do not have budgetary authority but can say it shall be staffed, which is how it is worded.

Bill: Has a problem with the language of superseding a previously appointed committee – doesn't think that will fly.

Kyle (in chat): "The commission established by this Article 10 shall supersede any previous commission(s) created to advise the Office of Climate and Environment." OR "The commission established by this Charter shall supersede any previous commission(s) created to advise the Office of Climate and Environment."

Some discussion around possible budget language.

Bob: Suggested language to the effect of: "Commissioners shall serve in an unpaid status and ... funds are necessary..."

Kevin: Made a suggestion in the chat: "The Commission shall be funded with an appropriate budget and shall be given support from County staff, including the staff of said department"

Bob: It needs to say that the members of this Commission serve on a voluntary basis.

Dick: It's not necessary to say that since there's no provision in here to pay them.

Liz accepted all eight revisions as a friendly amendment, seconded by Bob. To create this new Commission with the role of oversight that we talked about with these changes we just talked about.

VOTE: 12 in favor, 1 opposed (Olivia), 4 abstentions (Bill, Tom, Paul, David D). **Motion carried.**

Justice & Equity Committee Proposal – Jane presented:

Suggested we deal with the Non-Discrimination section today in its entirety based on comments today from the PA's office. (3:25)

(Tony joined the meeting sometime around 3:30)

Discussion about Non-Discrimination amendment vs. recommendation.

Bob: Jane has asked the CRC for a vote.

Kyle would like to discuss this in committee.

Liz: Wants to hear more about the recommendations.

Jane: Our subcommittee hasn't had a chance to deliberate on the last comments received from the PA's office.

Motion by Bob, seconded by Anne Marie to vote on the Justice & Equity amendment in its current form.

Sharon: We should take the time to meet once more as a subcommittee.

Discussion between Randy and Kevin re appropriate language. Randy: We are limited to local language. That's why he changed the introductory language.

Anne Marie: If it's in federal and state law and county contracts, why did we find there was discrimination in our contracting? That was one of the findings of this committee.

Randy: Doesn't understand what she's talking about. This language is broader than federal and state law – that's where we run into issues.

Kyle: This is precisely the kind of work that should be happening in committee. Recommended moving this discussion to the Justice & Equity subcommittee. How do we impact beyond federal and state law when we're prescribing more refined language only impacting the work that the county hires?

Randy suggested that the J&E Committee invite the county manager Mike Thomas and contract attorney John Kane (sp?) to this discussion after he tries out this language with a couple of contracts. Most contracts refer only to state and federal rules for non-discrimination. That's what Snohomish County does. Otherwise you run into liabilities and risks – companies would choose not to contract with us, and he thinks that would be a big expense for the county.

More discussion between Kevin and Randy.

Kevin: So that language could be clarified then.

Randy: Concerned that this language will cause the county to lose federal grants. Suggested separate this out as a separate ballot measure.

Bob: What would Jane like to do with this?

Jane: She would decide to retain clause 1, let clause 2 go and push it into an ordinance – doesn't feel good that we can't go back and discuss that in committee.

Kevin: Supports the motion on the table.

Kyle: Appreciates the energy from the full CRC and the time pressure. Time is now forcing the work of the subcommittee – thinks working changes could accomplish what everybody wants here. Doesn't think that would take weeks.

Sharon spoke in favor of an extra J&E subcommittee meeting.

Anne Marie withdrew her second.

Dick: The only way this gets accomplished by the subcommittee in one more meeting is if Randy is willing to meet with them. And Randy only wants to meet with the full CRC. Asked Randy to meet with the subcommittee one time.

Randy pushed back against meeting with the subcommittee.

Kevin suggested a one-hour meeting on Sunday afternoon, and **asked that the subcommittee send him specific questions ahead of time and far enough in advance that he can tell us if the questions aren't specific enough.** Then at our special CRC meeting on Monday, July 12 we can present on that subcommittee meeting.

Jane: Works for her.

Randy: Agreed.

The rest of the CRC agreed.

Note: An additional four members of CRC can join the Justice & Equity Committee meeting, which will take place this Sunday, July 11 at 1:00 pm.

4. Final Review of Amendments:

Status of remaining amendments shared.

5. Evaluate whether one or two ballots:

Not discussed at this meeting.

6. Budget:

Not discussed at this meeting.

7. New Business:

No new business.

8. Open for Public Comment: (4:13pm)

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: Adjourned at 4:30 (approx.)

Sharon Abreu
CRC Member

Minutes were approved by consensus at the July 12, 2021 Special Meeting