

Charter Review Commission
Minutes of Governance Sub-Committee Meeting on 3/11/21

The following was discussed:

1. Call to Order at 7:04 pm - Dave Anderson, Chair, called the meeting to order.
2. Roll Call – Present: Dave Anderson, Sharon Abreu, Janet Brownell, Jane Fuller, Richard Grout, & Olivia Roseberry. Tony Ghazel and David Dehlendorf absent.
3. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of our last meeting on 3/4/21 by Brownell. Second by Abreu. They were unanimously approved. Fuller made note that the minutes were well done and thanked Dehlendorf.
4. Agenda item #5 “Discussion about questions for the town halls” – Anderson moved this agenda item to the top for discussion.

Short discussion about whether the CRC Chair (Ranker) wanted “questions” or bullet points of issues before the committee. Fuller and Roseberry stated that the intention of the Town Halls was about “listening to, and self-exploration by, the public.” It was not to front load them with questions that might “influence the minds of the public.” It was decided to create a list of 3-4 bullet points.

Looking at the committee’s scope of work – Brownell suggested the following bullet points: 1). Clarifying the relationship between County Manager and County Council, 2) Local control, 3) Examining boards within the county and how they best serve the public and government

Anderson asked that Point #2 be refined to: “Island(s) self-governance.”

Fuller suggested that based on the legal opinion recently submitted by the County Prosecutor it was too soon to discuss with the public. It hasn’t “had traction in our committee.” Further, the opinion was so strong by the County Prosecutor that this was a dead issue.

Grout concurred with Fuller and felt to raise it now with the public would mislead it.

Anderson passionately argued in favor of islands to have self-governance. That the County Prosecutor’s opinion was limited in scope and narrowly defined self-governance. He wants to discuss this as a committee. And that this should be brought forward to the public as an issue before the Governance committee.

Roseberry concurred with Anderson adding that “it will be brought up by others at the Town Halls.”

Grout commented that if it is a topic the public wants to discuss, let the public bring it up. And to not add it to our bullet points.

Fuller stated she understood Anderson's and Roseberry's points, but reiterated that the issue of "Island(s) self-governance had not been discussed by our committee and it was not appropriate to put something forward that has not been deliberated.

Anderson then questioned if we should also add expansion of "residency" districts (ie: expansion of council members) to our bullet points.

Anderson then stated we needed to come to a point of order in moving forward. He suggested bringing forward four points to give to Ranker: 1). Clarifying the relationship between County Manager and County Council, 2) Local control, 3) Examining boards within the county and how they best serve the public and government and 4). Nature of "residency" districts (possible expansion of County Council)

Fuller strongly objected to the inclusion of point #4.

Brownell stated point #4 was something we had deliberated and voted on (see Minutes 3/4/21). If the CRC as a whole wants to explore this, that is its prerogative – but in terms of what the Governance Committee is dealing with, it was no longer one of our issues.

Anderson then asked for a motion for the three points: 1). Clarifying the relationship between County Manager and County Council, 2) Local control, 3) Examining boards within the county and how they best serve the public and government

Brownell stated that we were just preparing a list for Ranker – it was up to him as Chair whether or not he presented these points at the Town Hall.

Motion by Brownell. Second my Abreu. Vote 3-2 (one not voting)

5. New Business - None.
6. Adjournment - Motion by Brownell unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:12 pm.

Minutes prepared by Janet Brownell and submitted on 3/12/21.