

Charter Review Commission
Minutes of Governance Sub-Committee Meeting on 4/1/21

The following were discussed:

1. Call to Order - Meeting on Zoom called to order at 7:00 pm by Dave Anderson, Chair.
2. Roll Call - Present: Dave Anderson, Janet Brownell, David Dehlendorf, Jane Fuller, Dick Grout, Kevin Ranker, & Olivia Roseberry. Absent: Tony Ghazel.
3. Approval of 3/25/21 Minutes - Approved 7-0. In Dehlendorf's absence, Brownell agreed to take minutes at next week's meeting.
4. Articles 2 & 4 (Various Proposed Amendments) - By consensus, we agreed to postpone consideration of the five amendments recently proposed by Ghazel, who was absent to-night, until our next meeting. To be continued.
5. Issue #4 (Expand List of Names of Administrative Departments in Section 4.10) - Following up on discussion at our last meeting, a motion was made to amend Section 4.10 by replacing the first sentence with "The Administrative Departments, listed on the County website, shall include the County Manager and all other departments not managed by an independently elected official". Dehlendorf questioned whether this wording is broad enough to include other county entities that are not normally considered as departments, such as commissions, boards, and citizen advisory committees. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.
6. Issue #9 (Self-Governance for Islands, Etc.) - Fuller commented that she has not received any information from advocates supporting their interest in expanding self-governance in our county beyond Friday Harbor. Grout stated that state law does not allow individual islands or other areas of our county to implement self-governance unless they incorporate. Brownell pointed out that given that there is nothing in the charter today that prevents islands or other areas from so doing, there is no reason for us to consider an amendment to allow self-governance. It was moved, seconded, and approved 6-1 to eliminate this issue from our future deliberations.
7. Issues #10-11 (Various Items Concerning Citizen Advisory Committees) - It was pointed out that the existing charter does not contain any provisions related to citizen advisory committees, so that any amendment the CRC may eventually approve would require the drafting of an entirely new Article. Fuller would like to include a requirement that the County Council review annually the performance of each committee and the justification for its further existence. She would also like to see more diversity in the membership of the committees. A motion was made, seconded, and approved 7-0 to authorize Ranker to draft a proposed amendment for discussion at our next meeting that addresses his and others' concerns over the structure, authority, duties, etc. of citizen committees, as well as over the process used by the Council to process and approve candidate applications. To be continued.
8. Issue #12 (Background Checks & UAs for Citizen Committee) - There was no vote, but most members who spoke opposed possible background checks and UAs. Ranker suggested that Anderson speak with the chair of the Governance sub-committee over the

fact that Section 8.20(b) of the charter exempts citizen committees from compliance with the county's personnel system, including provisions regarding background checks and UAs. By consensus, Anderson was requested to initiate this conversation.

9. Issues #15-16 (Transfer Visitors Bureau to County. Elect Its Director) - It was unanimously agreed to postpone consideration of these issues to our April 8 meeting to give Brownell more time to gather information for our consideration.
10. New Business - None.
11. Public Comment - No members of the public were present.
12. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn unanimously approved at 8:15 pm.

Minutes prepared by David Dehlendorf and submitted to chair on 4/2/21.