

Charter Review Commission Recommendation
Re: Section 2.60 – Miscellaneous Appointments

The current Charter indicates that “[t]he County Council by action shall appoint members of all boards and commissions except as otherwise provided in this Charter” but does not provide any additional guidance for the appointment process. Based on first-hand accounts of constituents, the Charter Review Commission (CRC) has concluded that the County Council’s process for appointing people to boards and commissions needs to be more transparent and accountable to those who apply for positions and to the public. The system of notifying applicants of acceptance or rejection of their applications is inadequate. Applicants do not receive notice of the review and/or rejection of their applications by the County Council on a consistent basis, and in at least one instance the CRC was made aware of, an applicant was never officially informed of their appointment to a commission. The public is not informed in a timely and transparent manner of applicants to boards and commissions, or when the County Council will deliberate and make decisions about the applications in public Council meetings. Additionally, the CRC discussed the need for the County to promote the principles of diversity and inclusion in its recruitment of applicants and to establish a more formal onboarding process of appointees to raise awareness of the conduct expected of members with respect to the implementation of San Juan County Resolution 31-2020.

The CRC recommends that the County Council improve the process of appointments to boards and commissions by:

- Disclosing applicants to the public prior to the County Council meeting by including the names and the corresponding board, committee, or commission in the meeting agenda.
- Deliberating and voting in a public session on all applications to boards, committees, and commissions, except as otherwise provided in the Home Rule Charter.
- Notifying all applicants, including those not appointed, in writing of the County Council’s decision in a timely manner.
- Providing appropriate education and training to all applicants regarding their duties and responsibilities including matters of justice, equity, inclusion and diversity as consistent

with the Charter and San Juan County Resolution 31-2020, including representation from Coast Salish tribes who may not be residents of the County.