

February 24, 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, Paul Dossett, Jane Fuller, 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. David Dehlendorf joined later.

Others Present: Guests Ron Sims and Mac Nicholson, Minor Lile, Carl de Boor, Lisa Henderson, Rhonda Pederson, Mike Thomas, Nick Knoellinger, Kathryn Hansen (CRC Assistant), and one unidentified caller. Randy Gaylord joined later.

Approval of February 17, 2021 meeting **minutes**.

MOVED by Anne Marie Shanks, **SECONDED** by Sharon Abreu, to approve the Minutes as presented. Discussion followed. 17 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained. **MOTION PASSED.**

Special Guests – Chair Ranker introduced Mac Nicholson, King County Director of Government Relations and Ron Sims, former King County Executive. Both were involved with the recent review of King County's Charter. Mr. Nicholson described the formation of King County's appointed Charter Review Commission and their work to develop 11 ballot items to modify the charter. Mr. Sims shared his impressions of the process and offered suggestions to consider in preparing charter change proposals, including deal with the tougher issues early, preserve the integrity of the process, prepare clear, tightly written proposals, and listen to the public. Guests fielded questions from members and addressed how to discover what changes to the Charter the people want and revealing estimated fiscal impacts ("Fiscal Notes"), elected vs. appointed offices, honoring the local culture of government.

County 101 - **County Manager, Mike Thomas**. Chair Ranker introduced Mr. Thomas to give an overview of departments and functions in San Juan County. Mr. Thomas focused on life under the Charter, his observations, and costing proposals. In addition to commonly understood local functions, the County also fulfills required state and regional services. Mr. Thomas explained some already implemented efficiencies, getting departments to work together, i.e. Public Works and Parks, Land Bank and WSU Extension. Mr. Thomas explained the budgeting process and projected current fiscal challenges facing the County. He offered that he and his staff can help cost out proposals; please bounce ideas off him. asked questions about tax caps, the Environmental Resources Program, his ideas for the Charter changes, boards and commissions, and inclusion/equality.

Stating that he would like to return to two hour Wednesday meetings, Chair Ranker expressed **ground rules for meetings** – wait until called upon before speaking, seek Chair approval before asking follow up questions.

Town Halls, scheduling and content. Chair Ranker reviewed dates and times. He plans to start each session with a brief overview of the Charter – what is it and isn't, and what it can be. Meetings will then open to public comment at 3 minutes per person. All members should help get the word out to the public.

New Business. Kyle Davies has created Committee folders in Teams.

Open for Public Comment. Chair Ranker opened public comment. There was none.

Town Halls, continued. Discussion of publicity for meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Hansen
Recording Secretary

Minutes were approved by consensus at the March 3, 2021 Regular Meeting