



Charter Review Commission (CRC) Regular Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2021

1. Call to Order - 10:06am

2. Roll Call

In Attendance: David, Bob, Sharon, Tony, Anne Marie, Maureen, Patty, Dave, Jane, Janet, Liz, Bill, Paul, Kevin, Olivia (joined late)

Members of the Public: Milene Henley, Rhonda Peterson, Amy Vira, Alexandra, Michelline, Minor

3. Committee Report – Elected vs. Appointed:

Maureen shared screen and presented.

Kevin: Email received from Randy yesterday but not yet time to read it, so we won't be doing that portion of the presentation now. Kevin skimmed it and thinks there is some relevant info in there that we should all look at.

Discussion:

- The EvA Committee voted in favor of term limit of 3 4-year terms, then a county council member can run again for another 12 years after being off the SJCC for a period of 4 years.
- Dick: If term limits, should be 2 terms, not 3.
- Kevin: 12 years is a long time.

Motion by Bob that this proposed amendment be adopted by the full CRC – he is not opposed from changing from 3 terms to 2 if that's what the majority want. Patty seconded.

Discussion:

- Jane: We should look at all Randy's advice before we vote on any of this.
- David and Liz agree with Jane.
- Bob: Randy's email this morning didn't touch on this issue.
- Olivia: Consider what Randy gives us as feedback – we can get further clarification from him and then revise our motion.

- This is for term limits for the SJCC only.
- Maureen: We don't have to seek a legal opinion on all the proposals we put forward.

Vote: Motion passed.

4 opposed: Dick, Tony, Sharon, Anne Marie

1 abstention: Liz

Should Auditors and Treasurers offices be consolidated? EvA voted No.

Discussion:

- Kevin: Don't consolidate just to have the money to fund a new dept. Rationale for consolidating would be about efficiency and service to the citizens of the county – creating better programs. Their depts. from what the dept. heads have said, seem to be functioning well.
- Bill: Need separate depts. to have checks & balances.

Should Sheriff change from elected to appointed position? EvA voted No.

Discussion:

Most opinions voiced were in support of sheriff being an elected position.

Email Kevin if we would like any of these recommendations to be brought up for a vote. He welcomes others' interpretations and thoughts on these.

Discussion on our process for scheduling items for discussion.

Motion by Bob to reject the recommendation of the committee and move to a vote to determine whether this body wants to consider changing the sheriff from elected to appointed position. This would require 5 yeases. Let's do it now. Anne Marie seconded.

- Tony: You can't have two motions in the same motion.
- Bob: Withdrew the part about rejecting the committee's recommendation.
- Kevin: A few others wanted to comment on the process – allow them to speak before we vote on the motion.

Bob temporarily withdrew his motion.

Further discussion and clarification on our process for bringing issues forward to a future meeting.

Vote to schedule this discussion for a future agenda passed – more than 5 people voted for it.

Should the County Clerk remain an elected position? EvA committee voted Yes.

Discussion of Qualifications for running for office:

- Tony: RCWs – a few places where certain qualifications are required – ex, P.A. must have passed the bar exam – easily verifiable. The committee came up with some minimum qualifications that are easily verifiable. They would like some qualifications, but not anything that's hard to verify. Thinks we should digest Randy's comments on this.
- Maureen: Randy got the question from her – it's tricky and difficult to do that.
- Dick: We do need to digest Randy's email – he raises some good points, but do we think there should be some sort of minimum qualifications – in terms of verifying, the elections official or auditor could be designated to do random checks or rely on state law that if you falsify things, that's a misdemeanor.
- Bob: Did research on qualifications – various RCWs pertaining to this.

Motion by Bob – not voted on. (?)

4. New Business – None.

5. Public Comment:

Alexandra: In favor of having minimum qualifications, regardless of whether other counties have them.

Minor: Appreciates our thoughtful and respectful discussion. Frustrated by Randy's memorandum is not readily available for public review. Please make those memoranda available – promptly (not immediately) would be great.

Milene: She is against pre-qualifications: What problem are we solving by doing that? Bill Cumming was a great sheriff. Auditor qualifications – so many responsibilities, it's hard to define. What about accountant? There are people qualified to succeed her that we would be excluding. A lot of what we've talked about is ACCESS to running for office – it's a fundamental value and right to run for office. There are people who don't have much managerial experience but are great managers.

Close of Public Comment.

3. Discussion on Qualifications continued:

Janet: Professional experience is in every Voter Pamphlet.

Sharon: People don't receive printed Voter Pamphlets for primary elections – we really should get those.

Milene Henley posted in chat: Voter pamphlets are now required for all elections, starting with this year's primary. New law.

Kevin: **Action on this item at the next meeting, after we have all reviewed Randy's memo.**

Make sure we read the whole thing from Randy, not just the March memo.

Kevin: **Some have raised with him the elected v appointed County Manager position discussion – do 5 or more of us want to revisit this? If so, let him know.**

NOTE: Kevin will be out of communication until the next CRC meeting.

Bill: Motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT – Adjourned at 12:09pm.

Sharon Abreu
CRC Member

Minutes were approved by consensus at the May xx, 2021 Regular Meeting