



Charter Review Commission

City of San José

MINUTES

<https://sanjoseca.zoom.us/j/91220304185>

6:00 PM

Monday, April 5, 2021

Present: Chair- Frederick Ferrer; Members- Barbara Marshman, Christina Johnson, Elizabeth Monley, Elly Matsumura, Enrico Callender, Garrick Percival, George Sanchez, Huy Tran, Jeremy Barousse (6:30 p.m.), Jose Posadas, Linda Lezotte, Louis Barocio, Magnolia Segol, Maria Fuentes, Sammy Robledo, Thi Tran, Veronica Amador, Yong Zhao

Absent: Dan Bozzuto, Frank Maitski, Lan Diep, Sherry Segura

Staff: Lawrence Grodeska, Consultant; Megan Roche, Legislative Secretary; Toni J. Taber, City Clerk; Mark Vanni, Senior Deputy City Attorney

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Days

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Public Record

a) Receive and File Letters from the Public.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Segol and seconded by Commissioner Fuentes, the Commission moved to receive and file the letters from the public. (16-1-5; Noes: Lezotte; Absent: Bozzuto, Maitski, Barousse, Diep, Segura)

III. Consent Calendar

a) Approve Charter Review Commission Minutes.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Segol and seconded by Commissioner Marshman, the Commission moved to adopt the Charter Review Commission minutes from the meeting dated 3/22/2021 with the following clarification. For Item III.b, the wording of Commissioner Callender's motion is to be corrected from "The Chair noted he and staff will begin the research in order to save time" to "The Chair noted he and staff will begin research on project costs in order to save time." (16-0-5-1; Absent: Bozzuto, Maitski, Barousse, Diep, Segura; Abstention: Fuentes)

IV. Reports & Information

a) Report from the Chair

The Chair announced that he signed the budget letter that the Commission approved last meeting and sent it to the Mayor and City Council. He clarified that staff would address the budget letter during item VII.a, discussion on the Work Plan. Chair Ferrer also asked the Commission to read the G.A.R.E. Racial Equity Toolkit, which was distributed to Commissioners and posted on the San José website.

b) Report from the Clerk

Toni Taber, the City Clerk, announced the addition of an additional intern to City staff. Ms. Taber noted that the intern is a graduate student working on her MPA who will be able to start as soon as April 12, 2021.

c) Report from Consultant- None

V. Public Hearing- None

VI. New Business

a) Study Session on San José's current government structure and its practical implications.

Consultant Lawrence Grodeska gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the current San José City Charter. Former Mayor Ron Gonzales and former City Manager Norberto Duenas addressed the Commission and answered questions with regard to their experience governing San José.

Public Comment: Roland questioned why the Mayor would need enhanced powers to fire employees and the logistics of how San José would reconcile the two years of overlap in order to switch election cycles. Robert Brownstein noted that the time it takes to make governmental decisions is not due to bureaucracy but is instead necessary in order to consider and represent the many different constituencies which the government serves. Blair Beekman contended that by fostering openness and accountability with technology, San José can establish good practices now in order to be prepared for good decision-making during times of emergency. Robert Reese proposed modifications to the Governance Model Comparison Chart with the intention of improving clarity for both the Commission and for community outreach.

VII. Old Business

a) Discussion and possible action on Charter Review Commission Work Plan.

Senior Deputy City Attorney Mark Vanni addressed the Commission's options for soliciting legal counsel. The City Clerk, Toni Taber, described the Commission's capacity for additional research, community outreach, and translation services. Consultant Grodeska reviewed the changes made to the Work Plan.

Public Comment: Roland proposed a partnership between Google and Zoom to provide real-time closed captioning translations in order to engage the various ethnic groups in San José and also called attention to the firing of Ed Shikada. Matt King referenced his letter from the public in his addressal of the various factors which require consideration in order for the Commission to plan meaningful and participative community outreach. Blair Beekman envisioned building a more sustainable and equitable future by increasing public engagement in the democratic processes of the community and also voiced the opinion that the mayor should not have direct powers to engage developers. Robert Brownstein echoed Commissioner Fuentes' call for the need to create an all-encompassing document, including both text and practice, in the evaluation of governance forms and also clarified the roles of San José's governing bodies. Ellina highlighted the precedent that will be set by the Commission to foster equitable and inclusive community engagement and encouraged the Commissioners to comment on their budget letter when it appears before the Rules and Open Government Committee.

VIII. Public Comment/Open Forum

1. Blair Beekman stated the importance of incorporating good ideas into the Commission's work now in order to prepare for disasters and pandemics of the future and asked the Commission to allow public comment on the Consent Calendar.

IX. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2021.

X. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 9:19 p.m.


Megan Roche(megan.roche@sanjoseca.gov) (5/3/2021)

Prepared by:
Megan Roche, Deputy City Clerk


[REDACTED] (4/29/2021)

Frederick Ferrer
Chair, Charter Review Commission