



Charter Review Commission

City of San José

MINUTES

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

6:00 PM

Monday, May 3, 2021

Present: Chair- Frederick Ferrer; Members- Barbara Marshman, Christina Johnson, Elizabeth Monley, Elly Matsumura, Enrico Callender (6:40 p.m.), Frank Maitski, Garrick Percival, George Sanchez, Huy Tran, Jeremy Barousse, Jose Posadas, Lan Diep (6:10 p.m.), Linda LeZotte, Louis Barocio (6:04 p.m.), Magnolia Segol (6:05 p.m.), Maria Fuentes, Sammy Robledo, Sherry Segura, Thi Tran, Veronica Amador, Yong Zhao

Absent: None

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 Day

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

II. Consent Calendar

a) Approve Charter Review Commission Minutes.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Thi Tran and seconded by Commissioner Monley, the Commission moved to adopt the Charter Review Commission minutes from the meeting dated 4/19/2021. (19-0-2; Absent: Callender, Diep)

III. Reports & Information

a) Report from the Chair

The Chair called on Mark Vanni, Senior Deputy City Attorney, to clarify the restrictions on the Commission with regard to the Brown Act. Mr. Vanni and the Chair also noted that Commissioners should avoid expressing individual opinions in public.

b) Report from the Clerk

Toni Taber, the City Clerk, announced the resignation of District 10 representative, Dan Bozzuto. Ms. Taber noted that the City Council granted budget approval for many of the Commission's recommendations, with the exception of outside counsel. She highlighted that the Commission will have translation and interpretation services available for the next meeting.

c) Report from Consultant- None

IV. Public Hearing- None

V. New Business

a) Study Session on the Charter Review Process in Detroit, Michigan and the City of San Jose's Office of Racial Equity.

Guest speakers Denzel McCampbell, Detroit Charter Review Commissioner, Carol Weaver, Chair of the Detroit Charter Review Commission, and Lamont Satchel, general counsel for the Detroit Charter Review Commission, discussed their experience and involvement in the Charter Review process for the city of Detroit, Michigan. Guest speakers from the City of San José's Office of Racial Equity, Sabrina Parra-Garcia and Stephanie Jayne, discussed the role of their office and how concepts of racial equity can be incorporated into the work of the Commission.

Public Comment: A caller with the phone number ending in 5140 voiced his opinion that the City should focus on other aspects of governance before moving on to considerations of equity. Blair Beekman asked for public comment to be taken during the Consent Calendar item and before presentations by guest speakers during future meetings. Roland suggested that the Commission turn to the Detroit Charter Review Commission guest speakers to inform its conversations on racial equity and also wished for closed captioning on Zoom to be available in multiple languages. Robert Brownstein echoed the suggestion of the Office of Racial Equity that the Commission should ask a standard set of questions pertaining to potential racial equity impact for every single proposal considered.

VI. Old Business

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

The City Clerk, Toni Taber, described that the City Council approved the Commission's budget request for translation and interpretive services, additional research, and community outreach. The additional budget for outside counsel was not approved at that time. Ms. Taber took note of the Commissioners' reasoning behind their request for outside counsel with the intent to report back to the City Council. Consultant Grodeska discussed the List of Possible Recommendations document, subcommittee interest among the Commissioners, and additions to the Work Plan. Commissioners provided comment.

Public Comment: Robert Brownstein asked for public comment to be taken on all agenda items, namely the Report from the Clerk. A caller with the phone number ending in 5140 called for a halt to the increase of fines imposed throughout the City for various offenses. Roland echoed the comment of Robert Brownstein that public comment must be taken for every item on the agenda. Blair Beekman agreed that an adjustment to the

Commission's process is needed in order to allow public comment after every item.

VII. Public Comment/Open Forum

1. Roland expressed that permitting a mayoral seat to be held for six years is unreasonable. Rather, the City should open a mayoral seat for two years, including the caveat that the two-year term would not affect the elected candidate's ability to run for two more subsequent four-year terms.
2. Blair Beekman appreciated the refined questions that the Commission is asking surrounding equity, accountability in public policy, and better democratic practices.
3. A caller with the phone number ending in 5140 expressed dissatisfaction with the state of San José's downtown area, the repaving program, and overabundance of bike lanes.

VIII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2021.

IX. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

× *Megan Roche*
Megan Roche (5/25/2021)
Email: megan.roche@sanjoseca.gov

× *Frederick J. Ferrer*
Frederick J. Ferrer (5/24/2021)
Email: [REDACTED]

Prepared by:
Megan Roche, Deputy City Clerk

Frederick Ferrer
Chair, Charter Review Commission