



Charter Review Commission

City of San José

Study Session MINUTES

<https://sanjoseca.zoom.us/j/94141759036>

5:30 PM

Monday, September 13, 2021

Present: Chair- Frederick Ferrer; Members- Barbara Marshman, Christina Johnson, Elizabeth Monley, Elly Matsumura (5:35 p.m.), Enrico Callender, Frank Maitski, Garrick Percival, Huy Tran (5:33 p.m.), Jeremy Barousse, Jose Posadas (6:45 p.m.), Lan Diep (5:48 p.m.), Louis Barocio, Magnolia Segol, Maria Fuentes, Sherry Segura (5:33 p.m.), Tobin Gilman, Veronica Amador, Yong Zhao (5:33 p.m.)

Absent: George Sanchez, Linda LeZotte, Sammy Robledo, Thi Tran

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 5:31 p.m.

II. Consent Calendar

- a. Approve Charter Review Commission Minutes.**
- b. Receive and File Letters from the Public.**

Public Comment: The following members of the public provided comments: Blair Beekman, Tessa Woodmansee, Paul Soto, and Luc Gnamien.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner H. Tran and seconded by Commissioner Percival, the Commission moved to adopt the Charter Review Commission minutes from the meeting dated 8/9/2021, and to also receive and file the letters from the public. (14-0-6-2; Absent: Diep, LeZotte, Posadas, Robledo, Sanchez, T. Tran; Abstentions: Amador, Matsumura)

III. Study Session – To Be Heard at 6:00 p.m.

- a. Study Session on Policing, Municipal Law, Accountability, and Inclusion: Climate Change.**

[This item was heard at 6:00 p.m.]

The Commission held a study session on the topic of climate change. The following guest speakers presented to the Commission: Michael Mastrandrea, Climate Scientist, Stanford University; and Cat Woodmansee, MS in Biology and Systems Ecologist, Chico State University. Commissioners asked questions and discussion ensued.

Public Comment: The following members of the public provided comments: a caller with the phone number ending in 5140, Paul Soto, Blair Beekman, Ellina Yin, Andrew Boone, Roland, Tessa Woodmansee, “Black Outreach,” and Matt King.

IV. Old Business

1. Discussion and possible action on Charter Review Commission Work Plan.

a) Report from Chair- N/A

b) Report from Clerk

City Clerk Toni Taber noted that Bill AB 361, which extends Brown Act exemptions during states of emergency, was approved in the Assembly and Senate. If AB 361 is signed by the Governor, the Commission will not commence in person hybrid meetings and will remain virtual for as long as the state of emergency is declared.

c) Report from Consultant

Consultant Lawrence Grodeska reviewed a series of timing options for the submission of the Commission’s recommendations.

Public Comment: The following members of the public provided comments: Paul Soto, Poncho Guevara, Sandy Perry, Jeffrey Buchanan, Nihar Agrawal, a caller with the phone number ending in 5140, Crystal Calhoun, Robert Brownstein, Sandra Asher, Rachel Kumar, Ellina Yin, Alex Caraballo, Tessa Woodmansee, Blair Beekman, Peter Ortiz, Gaby Lopez, “Black Outreach,” Mica Estremera, Lucky Jordan, Laverne Foster, Tina Najibi, Kiana Simmons, Roland, Susan Price, Krista De La Torre, Lou Dimes, “Expand Police Oversight,” Rupini, Sandra, Brenda Dohmen, Mayra Pelagio, and Matt King.

Commissioners Segol and Callender provided a response to the letter submitted by City Manager Jennifer Maguire. Chair Ferrer committed to inviting a representative from the Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee to speak at a future Charter Commission meeting.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Matsumura and seconded by Commissioner Marshman, the Commission moved to schedule a final vote on Recommendation #1 from the Voting and Elections subcommittee, regarding the timing of mayoral elections, for October 4, 2022. Suggested Charter revision legal language and the Commission’s recommendation that the topic should be a stand-alone ballot measure will be included in the recommendation. (18-0-4; Absent: LeZotte, Robledo, Sanchez, T. Tran)

Public Comment: The following members of the public provided comments: Blair Beekman, Paul Soto, Tessa Woodmansee, and a caller with the phone number ending in 5140.

V. New Business- N/A

VI. Public Comment/Open Forum

1. Blair Beekman requested more accessibility and visibility into the subcommittee process, discussed strong mayor ideas, and asked about the possibility of an earthquake in the next decade.
2. Paul Soto discussed the legacy of past City policies, the importance of Charter decisions for future generations, and also apologized to Commissioner Matsumura for an outburst at a previous meeting.
3. Tessa Woodmansee opposed strong mayor ideas, discussed how capitalism has exploited people and nature for profit, and emphasized the importance of including climate action in the Charter.
4. A caller with the phone number ending in 5140 discussed leadership and taxation in the City and County, and also supported voting for Larry Elder.
5. "Expand Police Oversight" questioned the inclusion and importance of the Open Forum/Public Comment sections in Commission meetings.
6. Gaby asked the Commissioners to visit Palmwood Drive where police have been called but no changes have resulted.

VII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

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Prepared by:
Megan Roche, Deputy City Clerk

Frederick J. Ferrer

Email: [REDACTED]

Frederick Ferrer
Chair, Charter Review Commission