



**Charter Review Commission
Minutes
WebEx Board Meeting
June 14, 2022
7:00 PM**

Members Present: Chair Kevin Owen and members John Becker, Harold Hodges, Jack Kelly, Robert Kurnick, Anita Powell, Izola Shaw, Marissa Valeri, and Robert Wright. Sally Kram was absent.

Staff Present: Judy Penny, Administrative Assistant, City Clerk's Office

I. Welcome

Administrative Assistant Penny opened the meeting via WebEx at 7:15 p.m. Chair Owen welcomed all those present.

II. Approval of Revised Minutes—May 31, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes from May 31, 2022, as amended

Moved by Commissioner Wright seconded by Commissioner Valeri and approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Appendix Items

a. Town Hall Record—Appendix C

Commissioner Hodges presented Appendix C—Town Hall Record. Discussion took place. Commissioner Hodges will include the list of names under “Section 1”

Motion: To table approval of Appendix C—Town Hall Record until the Commission’s June 21, 2022, meeting

IV. Admission of Report Sections of Issues J through M:

a. Issue G – Alternative Voting Systems

b. Issue H – Translation of election information into various languages

Motion: To table discussion of Issues G and H until the Commission’s June 21, 2022, meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Valeri, opposed by Commissioner Shaw, and approved.

c. Issue J – Increasing the number of members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections

Discussion took place.

Motion: To move the language starting with “the pool of potential appointees through ‘All Other Qualified Applicants’” and paste it into the comments for the abovementioned topic.

Moved by Commissioner Valeri, seconded by Commissioner Wright, and approved unanimously.

Motion: To remove the paragraph beginning with “a lengthy and emotional discussion regarding the meaning of diversity, equity, and inclusion”

Moved by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Valeri, and approved unanimously.

Motion: To approve “Issue J”, as amended, and include it in the record.

Moved by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, and approved unanimously.

d. Issue L – The appointment process for the members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections

Discussion took place.

Motion: To approve “Issue L” and include it in the record.

Moved by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Kelly, and approved unanimously.

e. Issue I – Alternative methods of advertising an election

Discussion took place.

Motion: To approve any formatting questions or concerns relating to the report on the agenda for future meetings.

Moved by Commissioner Valeri, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, and approved unanimously.

Motion: To approve “Issue I”, and include it in the record

Moved by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Valeri, and approved unanimously.

V. Election Process/Franchise Expansion Working Group Report (Continued):

a. Presentation by Commissioner Shaw

- b. Issue N – Any additional provisions on topics raised during the vote by mail election, for example, ballot harvesting.**

Discussion took place.

Commissioner Valeri will draft a proposed recommendation for and Mayor and Council to consider regarding ballot harvesting, and a provision regarding domestic violence situations in which a partner forces the other to vote a certain way.

c. Issue O – Provisions that may increase voter turnout.

Discussion took place.

Motion: To adjust the terminology of “Option 1” to include exploring the change of scheduling the Rockville elections to coincide with the presidential elections or state gubernatorial elections.

Moved by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Valeri, and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Shaw will take the lead on drafting the majority opinion.

Option 2: to maintain the status quo regarding provisions that may increase voter turnout.

Supported by Chair Owen. Chair Owen will take the lead on drafting the minority opinion.

Commissioner Kram is recorded as “not voting.”

Commissioner Hodges wanted it noted that Commissioner Kram has given up her right to vote because she chose not to be at this meeting.

Part 1: To expand the franchise for Rockville residents that are not U.S. citizens

Discussion took place.

Motion: To amend the City of Rockville’s Charter in Article 3, Section 1, to read that, “Qualified voters shall mean any person who is a resident of the City of Rockville for at least 6 months, without regard to citizenship, and is at least xx number of years of age.

Moved by Commissioner Valeri, seconded by Commissioner Powell, opposed by Commissioner Wright, and approved.

Supported by Commissioners Powell, Valeri, Kelly, Hodges, Shaw, and Chair Owen.

Commissioner Hodges will take the lead on drafting the majority opinion.

Commissioner Becker abstained. Commissioner Kram is recorded as “not voting.” Commissioner Hodges wanted it noted that Commissioner Kram has given up her right to vote because she chose not to be at this meeting.

Part 2: maintain the status quo.

Supported by Commissioner Wright, who will write the minority report.

Part 3: To expand the right to vote to Rockville residents who are 16 or 17 years old.

Discussion took place.

Motion: To strike the second sentence from option 3, “the same age Maryland residents are able to register to vote” and place it under a “pro” for this option.

Moved by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Valeri, and approved unanimously. Commissioner Wright abstained.

Supported by Commissioners Powell, Hodges, Valeri, Kelly, Becker, Wright, Shaw, and Chair Owen. Commissioner Kram is recorded as “not voting.” Chair Owen will take the lead on drafting the majority opinion.

d. Issue P – Provisions in the election code for internal consistency with the Charter and vice-versa.

Discussion took place.

Motion: To approve Option 1 regarding “Issue P”, and include it in the record

Supported by Commissioners Hodges, Valeri, Kelly, Becker, Wright, Shaw, Powell, and Chair Owen. Commissioner Kram is recorded as “not voting.” Commissioner Hodges will take the lead on drafting the majority opinion.

VI. Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

VII. Future Meetings

- Tuesday, June 21, 2022—7:00 p.m.—the Mayor and Council subgroup will present their report
- Tuesday, June 28, 2022—7:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 p.m.

Motion: to adjourn.

Moved by Commissioner Valeri, seconded by Commissioner Wright, and approved unanimously.