

2011 Charter Commission  
Steering Committee Minutes — May 1, 2011

The meeting was held on May 1, 2011 at Independent Living Resources, which is located at 1839 NE Couch and is ADA accessible.

ATTENDEES

Commission Members: Anita Yap and Mark White, Commission Co-Chairs; Steve Weiss, Hank Miggins, Sue Pearce, Shelli Romero, Jan Campbell

Visitors: Dave Johnson

Charter Commission Co-Chair Anita Yap called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

The meeting started with a quick review of the previous meeting.

Discussion followed on recent inquiries on the establishment of an independent utility rate setting Commission. Hank Miggins provided details of his recent meeting with City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. He stated the independent Commission for water and sewer is his priority issue, but Commissioner Saltzman does not have issues with our other priority issues. He feels as long as we are focused on important issues, he could provide staff support. The Commissioner was not sure about the Human Rights Commission request. He said that voter-owned elections were fine, but did not consider them to be a hot topic. He expressed concern about the Charter Commission focusing on pocket book issues — those that would cost money to implement. He may be opposed to district elections because of possible favoritism among Commissioners for their respective districts. Mark White commented this might be addressed by requiring equitable distribution of funding geographically. The Commissioner did not see any issues with the Auditors requests. Commissioner Saltzman would like to come and present at our next Charter Commission meeting.

Dave Johnson presented his thoughts on establishing an independent Commission. It would include a representative from the Charter Commission, Dave Johnson, a BES representative, a PURB representative, and a PBA representative. Anita Yap mentioned that Charter Commission committees must have at least two Charter Commissioners on it and that a Charter Commissioner chair the committee. Steve Weiss expressed interest in sitting on the committee. Sue stated she would be willing to sit on the committee if no other member of the full Commission was interested in order to fulfill the requirement of two Commissioners to sit on a committee.

Dave went on to say the committee would discuss the concept and come up with suggestions for the full Charter Commission to consider. The Charter Commission would then decide on which suggestion to move forward on. Mark expressed concerns about

not letting the issue be fully vetted within the community before a decision is made on which suggestion the committee moves forward.

Steve stated he would like three things considered and/or addressed on the issue:

- creation of an independent rate setting body
- use of rate payer money for projects not directly related to water and sewer
- who are the unnamed experts making recommendations

Hank mentioned we need clarity from Commissioner Saltzman on what he will support for our efforts, i.e. specifically for this one issue or overall support to cover this and other issues.

It was recommended we ask the full Commission about establishing a dedicated committee for the issue. Once approved, Steve will ask the full Charter Commission about participation on the committee.

It was also recommended to use this same process for the Human Rights Commission. Once the committee is approved, we ask Commissioners about participation keeping in mind that we need at least two members to be on the committee and one to chair.

Steve mentioned the issue for a rate setting Commission was a good reason for the Charter Commission to continue beyond the targeted six months. Sue agreed there has been compelling testimony in favor of ideas for amendments; further discussion would be a reason to move forward.

Hank suggested the co-chairs write a letter about the Charter Commission continuing.

Anita agreed to create a letter with a timeline and deliverables as requested by Commissioner Fritz. Mark will present at the next full Charter Commission meeting.

Mark suggested making the end date the end of the year. Further discussion included concerns about the end of the year holidays. It was decided to target the end of November for the end date. Sue suggested no public meetings in August, a time when many families are vacationing. Alternatives might be a public meeting in September, and/or more than one meeting in the same month, but different sites.

Sue stated that getting at least a few housekeeping issues on the May 2012 primary ballot was possible.

Steve suggested we ask Commissioner Saltzman about planned rate increases, to try and get the Commission set up in time to review them, or at least as many as possible.

Anita stated she will clean up the language about the rotation of Commissioners.

It was recommended we add to the full Charter Commission agenda the timeline and the letter from Cogan, Owens, and Cogan.

Anita will check in with Tricia Knoll about the committee on the Human Rights Commission.

We should also discuss the formation of a committee to oversee the public meetings. Shelli Romero, Cassie Cohen, and Lai Lani Ovalles were also mentioned as possible Commissioners to participate in this committee.

It was recommended at the next full Charter Commission meeting, we get approval from the Commission on attendance requirements. The recommendation was after missing three consecutive meetings a Commissioner would be removed from the Commission.

The steering committee decided on the following agenda for the next full Charter Commission:

6:30 p.m. Welcome and introductions

6:35 p.m. Approval of minutes

6:40 p.m. Public comment

6:55 p.m. Utility rate setting Commission discussion with Commissioner Saltzman, Dave Johnson, and others

7:40 p.m. Formation of Committees — Rate setting Commission, HRC, public meetings

7:55 p.m. Committee reports — action items from steering committee, housekeeping, communications (op-ed piece for the Oregonian)

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

The next meeting was confirmed for May 22 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Independent Living Resources. Jan Campbell may need to participate via conference call.