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Charter Commission
Charter Briefing
March 9, 2021

MINUTES

Start Time: 5:15pm

Attendees

- Charter Commissioners: Andrew Speer, Anthony Castaneda, Bryan Lewis, Candace Avalos, Salome Chimuku, Amira Streeter, Dave Galat, Debbie Kitchin, Debra Porta, Hanna Osman, Karol Collymore, Raahi Reddy, Steven Phan, Vadim Mozyrsky, Becca Uherbelau
 - Absent Commissioners: Melanie Billings-Yun, Yasmin Ibarra, Robin Ye, and Angie Morrill
- Staff: Julia Meier

Presentation

- Deputy City Attorney Maja Haium presented on Future Topics, City Charters, Portland's Charter, and the Charter Commission. A copy of the presentation is available on the Charter Commission webpage.

Discussion

- A Model Charter for Oregon Cities is published by the League of Oregon Cities to serve as a guide for charter drafting. The Model Charter can be found online.
- To learn about individual Charter sections, refer to the brackets at the end of a section. The bracketed content references when a section was added. One can then go to the Multnomah County voter pamphlet from that time to read statements in support and opposition of the Charter amendment.
- The Charter Commission may make recommendations to City Council intermittently or all at once.
- City bureaus have proposed Charter amendments. It is up to the Charter Commission to decide whether you want to review bureaus recommended changes.
- The Charter Commission may recommend adding whole new sections or deleting whole sections.
- The Charter Commission may choose to evaluate its own process.
- The Charter Commission may set its own rules around quorum and voting. The tradition for a quorum is a simple majority – in this case 11 – but the Commission may change that. The Commission can also decide whether it wants the voting number to be out of the total number of Commissioners or those Commissioners in attendance at the time of the vote.
- The Charter Commission may want to consider what other cities are doing including cities going through charter review, e.g. Minneapolis, San Jose and Detroit
- The group discussed what happens when Charter Commission recommendations are headed to the ballot. Oregon Statute prohibits public employees (including public officials) from promoting or opposing a ballot measure after it is certified. Only elected officials are exempted. Education is not prohibited. Maja can do a full training on this topic.

End Time 6:45pm



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