

**Multnomah County Charter Review Committee**

**MINUTES**

October 21, 2015

Multnomah Building

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Boardroom

Portland, OR 97214

Meeting: Charter Review Committee was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Members present: Kirsten Leonard, Carol Chesarek, Liz Trojan, Justin Freeman, Keith Mosman, Mark Sturbois, David Robertson, Samantha Alloy, Juan Carlos Ordonez, John Vandermosten, Paul Koch, Victoria Purvine, Michael Cummings

Members absent: Moses Ross, Jeanna Hall

Staff Present: Jacquie Weber, Jenny Madkour, Marco Circosta

Approved minutes: N/A – Initial meeting

**Remarks from Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury:** Chair Kafoury welcomed committee members and thanked them for their willingness to serve their community. She noted that the group has the opportunity to make very real changes. She also stressed how Multnomah County staff and the Board of Commissioners are all resources that can be utilized during the committee proceedings. The committee then introduced themselves and identified where they live.

**Government & County Charter Structure Powerpoint Presentation:** Jacquie Weber walked the committee through a presentation describing the Multnomah County structure and the Home Rule Charter as a local constitution. The presentation also included an overview of the Charter Review Committee’s responsibilities and the scope of their work. The final portion of the presentation listed the different procedural issues that should be determined by the committee at the first meeting.

**Feedback from Committee:** Marco Circosta initiated a discussion by asking each committee member to comment on what they hope the CRC will accomplish and what issues are interesting to the committee members. Some common themes across the committee include government transparency, gathering input from the Board of Commissioners to understand how the Home Rule Charter affects them, reviewing elected official term limits, creating easier communication between communities and local government, and ensuring the County Charter is equitable to all Multnomah County residents.

**Selection of Committee Chair & Vice Chair:** Committee members decided to vote openly for the position of chair and vice chair. Kirsten Leonard was unanimously voted to be Chair of the Charter Review Committee while Victoria Purvine was voted to be Vice Chair of the Charter Review Committee.

**Review of Legal Responsibilities:** Jenny Madkour and Jacquie Weber gave an introductory lesson on what responsibilities come with being a public official. Jenny provided an overview of public record retention and public record requests. A brief description of the scope of the County Charter reinforced what would be possible to accomplish through the charter.

**Administrative Procedures and Future Meetings:** It was decided that the Charter Review Committee will meet every third Wednesday of the month, unless changed by a majority of the committee at a regular meeting. Future meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. The Committee will consider written and oral testimony offered during the charter review process. Substantive changes to the charter will not be decided at sub-committee meetings. It was determined by the majority of committee members that decisions will made through “silent voting”. Liz Trojan voted against the “silent voting” option.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.