

5/2 Meeting



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Suite 1500
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-3525

MEMBERS

Ann Porter, *Chair*
Mark Johnson, *Vice-Chair*
Florence Bancroft
Lana Butterfield
David J. Chambers
Liberty Lane
Monica Little
Bruce McCain
Paul Norr
Marcia Pry
Casey Short
Nicholas Teeny
LaVelle VandenBerg

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, May 2, 1990
7:00 p.m.
Multnomah County Courthouse
Board Room (Room 602)
1021 S.W. Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

STAFF

William C. Rapp
Administrator
Shirley Winter
Secretary

AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING AND WORK SESSION ON THE EXECUTIVE AND THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

II. WORK SESSION

- A. Approval of minutes of April 18, 1990.
- B. Work session on the executive and board of county commissioners.
1. Executive:
- a. Shall the executive functions of the county chair be transferred to a county manager/administrator?
- b. Shall the new chair position be elected county-wide or shall it be a rotating chair?
2. Board of commissioners:
- a. Full or Part-time?
- b. Shall there be any change in size of the board?



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MINUTES MAY 2, 1990

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Pursuant to notice by press release to newspapers of local circulation throughout Multnomah County and mailed to persons on the mailing list of the committee, a public meeting of the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee was held at the Multnomah County Courthouse, Board Room, (Room 602), 1021 S.W. Fourth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204. The meeting convened at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present

Ann Porter, *Chair*
Mark Johnson, *Vice-Chair*
Florence Bancroft
Lana Butterfield
David Chambers
Liberty Lane
Monica Little
Marcia Pry
Casey Short
La Velle Vanden Berg

Members Absent

Bruce McCain
Paul Norr
Nicholas Teeny

Staff Present

Bill Rapp, *Administrator*
Ginger Hawkins, *Secretary*

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION:

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 18, 1990 meeting were approved as written.

Work Session on the Executive

Florence Bancroft asked if at the present time the chair can hire a manager if desired. Ann Porter responded in the affirmative and Hank Miggins, Executive Assistant to the Chair, confirmed Porter's response.

La Velle Vanden Berg stated that she is in favor of leaving the chair as an elected official with

executive duties. Vanden Berg went on to state that she feels with the current system there is direct communication among the five commissioners.

Vanden Berg also stated that the present situation provides cooperation and direct accountability and accessibility to the public.

Liberty Lane stated that accountability would not change if a county manager/administrator were hired. Lane went on to state that the daily management duties would be transferred to a paid executive rather than an elected official.

Relating to the previous statements on accountability, Casey Short stated that four of the five commissioners have little influence on the day to day operations of the county. Short then stated that the five commissioners would be responsible for the hiring of a county manager who would report directly to them.

Florence Bancroft asked Short if he was in favor of five districts and eliminating the executive role of the county chair. Short responded in the affirmative.

Vanden Berg asked Short to clarify what he meant by his statement that having a county manager would provide the board with more input into county operations.

Short responded that the county manager would be responsible to the commissioners.

Vanden Berg then asked Short if having five commissioners supervise a county manager would create any problems.

Short responded that having a county manager would provide a better opportunity for implementation of programs. Short also stated that several government entities currently operate successfully with a manager. Short went on to state that with the current board, problems could arise if the chair were to vote against a certain policy and then have to enforce it at a later date if were approved by the full board.

Vanden Berg stated that the voters would not re-elect someone who is not cooperating with the majority of the commissioners.

Short stated that a politician is a public figure, a policy maker and sometimes an administrator. Administrative responsibility is one of the lesser qualities that the voters evaluate when electing a public official.

Vanden Berg stated that it is effectiveness that gets an official elected.

Monica Little stated that she feels the present situation creates a conflict for the chair because that person is not only making policy but is also responsible for putting the policy into effect. Little agreed with Short regarding the potential problem of having the chair responsible for both policy-making and enforcement.

Little went on to state that she supports a transfer of the executive functions of the chair to an independently hired professional county manager/administrator who is accountable to the commissioners.

In response to Vanden Berg's previous concern with having the five commissioners supervising the county manager, Mark Johnson stated that he was persuaded by the previous statements from various individuals who currently work with this county structure.

Florence Bancroft stated that she would like to see the structure remain as it currently is. Bancroft said that the current structure has not been in effect long enough to see if it works.

La Velle Vanden Berg moved that no change to the charter be made concerning the executive functions. The motion was seconded by Florence Bancroft.

The motion failed 3-7 with Florence Bancroft, David Chambers, and La Velle Vanden Berg in favor. Opposed to the motion were Ann Porter, Mark Johnson, Lana Butterfield, Liberty Lane, Monica Little, Marcia Pry and Casey Short.

Liberty Lane moved that the executive functions of the county chair be transferred to a county manager/administrator. The motion was seconded by Monica Little. The motion passed 7-3 with Ann Porter, Mark Johnson, Lana Butterfield, Liberty Lane, Monica Little, Marcia Pry and Casey Short in favor. Opposed to the motion were Florence Bancroft, David Chambers and La Velle Vanden Berg.

Work Session on an Elected versus a Rotating Chair

Florence Bancroft began discussion by moving that the new chair position be a rotating chair. There was no second to that motion.

Mark Johnson stated that there are more options than the two listed on the agenda of an elected and a rotating chair.

La Velle Vanden Berg asked if a change in the present structure would mean a change in districts.

Casey Short stated that he prefers to have five commissioners elected by district and a provision for the board to select a chair and vice-chair annually. Short asked what the process would be for re-arranging district boundaries.

After some discussion by the committee, Ann Porter responded that the county elections division is responsible for the redrawing of the districts.

Monica Little stated that having the chair elected county-wide provides accountability to all county citizens rather than just the citizens of one district.

La Velle Vanden Berg agreed with Little's statement and added that having a permanent county chair would make dealings with the county manager easier.

Monica Little moved that the new chair position be elected county-wide. The motion was seconded by La Velle Vanden Berg.

Casey Short asked what the function of the new chair position would be. Short emphasized that the position of chair would have to be defined at some point.

Ann Porter stated that she envisions the role of the new chair would include being a spokesperson for the county as well as the usual functions that are performed by a chair including the setting of agendas for meetings.

Short stated that one issue that will need to be addressed is the salary for the new chair position. He stated that the chair might not deserve a higher salary than the other commissioners considering that she will not have that many more responsibilities.

David Chambers responded that he feels the salary of the new chair is a separate issue and should be discussed when the salary issue is separately discussed.

After some discussion on the difference between what the commissioners earn and the chair's salary, Ann Porter confirmed that the chair makes approximately \$14,000 more per year.

Florence Bancroft stated that she is in favor of five commissioners elected by district and a rotating chair. She thinks that each district should be allowed to elect an official spokesperson for a year.

La Velle Vanden Berg asked if Bancroft was aware that even a chair elected county-wide would represent the citizens of all the districts.

Bancroft responded in the affirmative, however, the elected chair would live in only one of those districts.

Liberty Lane stated she favors five commissioners elected by district with a chair elected from among those commissioners on an annual basis. Lane went on to state that rather than have a "rotating" chair, the same person could be elected for more than one term.

Mark Johnson questioned the motion's necessity because the motion to have the new chair position be elected county-wide makes no change in the current structure; the chair is already elected county-wide.

After some discussion on the need for a motion to change the existing structure, Casey Short asked if legal counsel could advise the committee on this issue.

Dick Roberts, legal counsel for the committee, stated that because the existing charter language indicates that the chair is elected at large, the motion is not necessary. Roberts stated that consideration will need to be made at a later date as to the functions assigned to the county manager.

David Chambers questioned if charter section 6.10 (1) through (8) would be changed by the motion which passed creating a county manager position.

Vanden Berg stated that it seems to her that only section three would be involved in the transfer of functions from the chair to the county manager.

Porter interjected that Roberts stated that the current motion is not necessary. Roberts confirmed Porter's statement.

The motion was withdrawn by Monica Little and the second to the motion was withdrawn by La Velle Vanden Berg.

Florence Bancroft then moved that the chair position be a rotating chair elected by the commissioners. The motion was seconded by Mark Johnson.

Casey Short asked Bancroft if it was her intent to have five commissioners, each elected by district who would then choose from among themselves the chair. Bancroft agreed that was her intent.

The motion to have the county commissioners elect their own chair failed 6-4. Those favoring the motion were Marcia Pry, Liberty Lane, Florence Bancroft, Mark Johnson, Casey Short and David Chambers. Those opposed were Ann Porter, La Velle Vanden Berg,

Lana Butterfield and Monica Little.

Work Session on Full or Part-time Commissioners

La Velle Vanden Berg opened by stating that she is opposed to part-time commissioners.

Casey Short and Mark Johnson agreed with Vanden Berg's statement.

Monica Little stated that the primary responsibility of the commissioners is to focus on policy. Little stated that policy could be made by part-time commissioners. Little went on to say that the positions do not need to be full-time to attract quality candidates.

Liberty Lane stated that she is uncertain if the board of commissioners is specifically stated in the charter as being full-time now. She agrees with Little's statement that the positions do not need to be full-time to attract quality people. Lane then said that accessibility would be enhanced by part-time commissioners because meetings could be held in the evening.

Monica Little moved that the commissioners be made part-time policy-makers. The motion was seconded by Liberty Lane.

The motion failed 2-8. Those favoring the motion were Monica Little and Liberty Lane. Those opposed to the motion were Ann Porter, Mark Johnson, Florence Bancroft, David Chambers, Lana Butterfield, Casey Short, Marcia Pry and La Velle Vanden Berg.

Work Session on the Size of the Board of Commissioners

No further discussion was held on changing the size of the board of commissioners.

Additional Business

Bill Rapp asked if the committee would like to address the transition period for implementing the new structure for a county manager.

Mark Johnson stated that he would like to have a proposal from the Administrator on the issues of a transition for implementing a county manager structure and the functions of the chair vis-a-vis the county manager. Rapp agreed to submit the proposals.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



GLADYS McCOY, Multnomah County Chair

Room 134, County Courthouse
1021 S.W. Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-3308

May 2, 1990

Ann Porter, Chair
Charter Committee Review
B106/R1500

Dear Ann:

The Charter Review Committee is reviewing the Executive as either an appointed or elected position, the role of the Chair on the Board, having a full-time or part-time Board and the number of Board members. I have testified before you on all of these important issues.

I have attached a copy of my correspondence of March 27, 1990. I encourage you to once again review these points. They clearly state my perspective and position on the issues before you.

I also ask that you consider the following questions as you are deliberating the issues: "what is the problem you are trying to fix?" And, "will the changes being considered really fix the problem?"

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend your meeting as I must attend a meeting of the Association of Oregon Counties in Bend. Hank Miggins, my Executive Assistant, and Merlin Reynolds of my staff will attend to answer any questions you may have.

Once again, I reiterate my appreciation for your time, commitment and hard work.

Sincerely,

Gladys McCoy
Multnomah County Chair



GLADYS McCOY, Multnomah County Chair

Room 134, County Courthouse
1021 S.W. Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 248-3308

March 27, 1990

Ann Porter
Charter Review Committee
B106/R1500

Dear Ann:

This is a request asking that you allow me the opportunity to speak to the Committee at your March 28th meeting.

The work the Charter Review Committee is conducting is extremely important to the citizens of this County and I commend the Committee for your commitment and thoughtful review of the Charter issues before you. For this reason, I would like to take this opportunity, while you are reviewing the Charter make up of the Board of County Commissioners, the Chair's role and a County Administrator to suggest that you ask the following basic question: "Has the current structure had time to show that it works?" The current structure has had little more than three years to work and I personally do not believe that is long enough for the public or the Charter Review Committee to thoroughly review the structure beyond the current personalities involved.

The current structure of four full-time Commissioners, and the Chair with legislative and executive authority is appropriate to meet the important demands placed on the largest County Government in this state and still be responsive and accessible to our citizens.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these important issues and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have of me at your March 28th meeting.

Sincerely,

Gladys McCoy
Multnomah County Chair

MR:iar