

Notes of Charter Commission meeting, Aug. 11, 2021

Present: Kebede, Stewart-Bouley, Barowitz, Eglinton, Buxton, Sheikh-Yousef, Chann, Lizanecz, O'Brien, Waxman, Washburn, Houston, Attorney Jim Katsiaficas

Approve minutes of July 15 and 28 meetings: Moved, Eglinton, seconded Washburn. Passed unanimously.

Community agreements: Buxton introduced document. Waxman asked for greater explanation for benefit of public. Chann and Buxton shared screens.

Discussion of outreach to "Black, Brown, and Indigenous" populations. Suggestion by Kebede to change to "members of marginalized communities" was adopted.

Houston & Washburn to investigate question of captioning meetings.

Buxton asks that we respect one another's honorifics, name pronunciations

Chann: Zoom profile allows specifying pronouns

General agreement on referring to one another as "Commissioner LastName"

Remove references to public

Waxman: Let's lead with the section about listening. Suggestion was adopted.

Barowitz suggests correcting grammar on WAIT. Left it ungrammatical for the sake of acronym.

Kebede suggests adding "Disagree with ideas, not people." Buxton and Chann point out that it's already there, and made a small edit.

Washburn suggests addressing concerns about violations of community agreements to the Chair rather than individual commissioners. Waxman suggests that some of this is just running a good meeting.

Eglinton moves to adopt amended agreements, Houston seconds. Vote passes unanimously.

Officer roles: Chair is primary point of contact with City Clerk. Secretary is not responsible for minutes.

Washburn moves to adopt amended roles document, Houston seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Charter reform issues and process: O'Brien suggests forming committees first and then assigning issues to them.

Barowitz suggests: Executive, legislative, operational, engagement, DEI, finance

Sheikh-Yousef suggests forming the list of issues first and then forming committees.

O'Brien suggests: 3 members on each committee, 4 committees
Education, City Structures, Elections & Finances, DEI/Justice

Chann suggests: Governance, Education, Elections/Campaign Finance, Finance/Administration

Kebede suggests mapping issues onto Chann's suggested committees.

O'Brien moved to establish 5 committees, Waxman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Charter Commission Committees

	Committees & Membership	Jurisdiction
A	Governance Committee (Articles I, II)	• Redistricting and Council Structure • Mayor/City Manager Roles, Powers, Duties, Accountability • School Board/City Council Relationship • Community and Neighborhood Boards • Office of Public Advocate • Home Rule • Human Rights Commission • City Staff Relationship to Elected/Appointed Officials
B	Education & School Budget Committee (Article III)	• School Board/City Council Relationship • Pre-K and After School • Mental Health Care • School Departments
C	Elections & Campaign Finance Committee (Articles IV and V)	• Electoral Process • Clean Elections • Citizen Initiatives • Term Limits • Timing of Elections • Universal Resident Voting • Ranked Choice Voting • Voter Engagement and Participation
D	Procedures Committee	• Conflict of Interest Disclosures • Participatory Budgeting • Compensation of Officials • Term Limits • City Staff Relationship to Elected/Appointed Officials

E	Departments Committee	• Department of Labor • Department of Community & Constituent Engagement • Housing • Office of Public Advocate • Human Rights Commission • Police Oversight • Public Transit • Mental Health Care • Climate and Environmental Sustainability
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Committee assignments: Each commissioner to email Chair Kebede their top three choices, Kebede, Stewart-Bouley and Eglinton to make assignments. Committee membership to be capped at 4. Emails to be sent by Friday 5 p.m.

JK suggests officially naming people to committees at next meeting to give time to obtain useful information about how to schedule committee meetings.

Budget: Kebede, Barowitz, Waxman, Lizaneczk to meet with the city manager Aug. 26.

Communications policy: Media requests will go through the chair. Social media accounts will ban commenting. We will strive to publish emails that we receive in our minutes. Chart the Future web site will be information-only.

Washburn moves to adjourn, Waxman seconds. Barowitz seeks to introduce 2 agenda items while deferring them.

Deferring 2 agenda items: Bar, SY, Hous, Liz against, all others for.

Waxman, Houston motion to adjourn