

Elections Committee: Nov. 16, 2021

Present: Buxton, Chann, Washburn

Meeting **called to order** 6:05 p.m.

Agenda amended to reflect that past meeting's minutes were from Oct. 19. (Washburn moved, Buxton seconded, motion passed unanimously.)

Minutes of Oct. 19 meeting approved unanimously. (Buxton moved, Washburn seconded.)

Nov. 2 meeting was canceled to encourage members of the public to vote on Election Day.

Workshop on **work plan and timetable** followed.

Recommendations should have two reads before a vote on whether or not to adopt.

Buxton: Can we get at least some recommendations in front of the full commission Dec. 22?

Washburn to draft language on universal resident voting.

Buxton suggests further discussion needed on clean elections.

Nov. 30, Atty Katsifiacas to provide overview of state and local election laws. Interim Corp Counsel Jen Thomas to add information from the municipal perspective. This is in addition to regularly scheduled meetings.

Buxton to draft language on Clean Elections, Chann on proportional representation.

Dec. 7 focus on Clean Elections

Dec. 21 final reading on Clean Elections and vote, probably not on all three issues as we want to make sure the public has a chance to weigh in and holidays are a thing that happens.

Buxton: are there other issues we should be considering?

Chann: Campaign finance, but might not be possible within state and federal constraints.

Buxton suggests we may be able to find some expertise in the city and ideas for what we can do locally. Washburn: Let's not take on a lot more until we resolve the issues we have.

Brief discussion of adjustments to ranked-choice vote counting.

Public comment period

George Rheault encourages the city to look at the charter to fill a vacancy on the City Council (caused when Spencer Thibodeau resigned Sept. 20), following examples in Bangor and Boston.

Discussion of how we handle candidates who drop out and serving elected officials who resign. We will follow up with Attorney Katsifiacas.

Chair Chann to allow Buxton and Washburn to review questions for Jim K.

Meeting adjourned 7:12 p.m.