

2015 Charter Review Task Force



Summary Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2015

5:00PM

Council Committee Room
9th Floor, Suite 9081
Albuquerque/Bernalillo
County Government Center

Members Present

Robert White
Laura Mason
Bruce Thompson
Steven Gallegos
Robert Stetson
Doug Antoon
Steven Allen
Myra Segal
David Buchholtz
Jerry Evans

Council/ Administration Staff Present

Eric Locher, City Attorney
Chris Melendrez, Council Staff
Lindsay Burkhard, Council Staff

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 PM.

1. Roll Call

Mr. White, Task Force Chair starts the meeting and calls roll. Mr. White stated that the Mayor's appointees may have been made and offers to again reach out to the CAO. Mr. White offers to work with those appointees to bring them up to speed before the next meeting.

2. A. Public Presentation

Ms. Heather Ferguson from NM Common Cause addresses the Task Force again with bullet points summarizing their proposed revisions on public financing and campaign reporting.

B. Public Comment

Tad Niemyjski addressed the Task Force.

3. Approval of the Work Plan

The Task Force informally agreed that next week they extend the working timeframe beyond 7PM. Members also expressed concern over moving forward without the mayor's appointments involvement. The Task Force informally accepts the working plan, and decides to discuss concepts assigned for each meeting with the understanding that a vote will be taken at the next meeting on that concept.

Mr. White asks for technical rewrites to be prepared by staff in regard to election issues. Mr. White nominates Mr. Thompson to work with staff on preparing the draft.

Mr. White puts forth a motion stating that next week the Task Force will vote conceptually on the 3 election issues. He also asks that the meeting on the 28th have language before the Task Force to be approved and fine-tuned. Ms. Mason seconds the motion.

Mr. Antoon asks to put forth an amendment to keep Voter ID issue this week.

Mr. White accepts the amendment and states that after the discussion if the Task Force is ready to vote they may do so. Mr. White allows Mr. Antoon to state his case on the Voter ID issue.

Mr. White allows for Public Comment to be taken up on this issue. Mr. Niemyjski again addresses the Task Force.

4. Discussion of Election Provisions Cont.

The Task Force discusses what happens when municipal elections coincide with general elections. State law says that is it "Home Rule" or at the discretion of the municipality. November 6th, 2012 O-12-33.

Mr. Antoon suggests having ten separate types of photo identification. Mr. Gallegos states that the community that he represents "feels like we have a right to vote, we are citizens just like everyone else. Why put more rules where you don't need them. Don't add extra hoops to jump through."

Ms. Segal states that the purpose of the provision to prevent voter fraud. Mr. Allen states that the research he did in the 2009 election cycle found 16 qualified voters that were impacted.

Mr. White states that the Task Force can:

- A. Recommend the elimination of the provision
- B. Adopt something akin to state law
- C. Go through and look at the 3 issues, changing 10 days to 3 days to present legit id, there is a permanent waiver when municipal elections are held with general elections state law prevails, Adopt Mr. Antoon suggestion on ten varieties of Voter ID types.

Mr. White suggests that we look at the broad issue and put voting on election provisions off to the next meeting.

Ms. Mason seconds Mr. White's statement.

Mr. Buchholtz makes a motion in support of the above statement. The motion is seconded by Mr. Allen.

Mr. Antoon and Mr. Evans oppose the motion.

The motion carries. Election provisions are moved to the next meeting.

5. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54PM.

