

2015 Charter Review Task Force



Summary Minutes

Thursday, May 7, 2015

5:00PM

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

Members Present

Robert White
Bruce Thompson
Steven Gallegos
Robert Stetson
Doug Antoon
Steven Allen
Myra Segal
David Buchholtz
Jerry Evans
Justine Fox-Young

Council/ Administration Staff Present

Lindsay Burkhard, Council
Eric Locher, City Attorney's Office
Chris Melendrez, Council

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 PM.

1. Roll Call

Mr. White, Task Force Chair, starts the meeting and calls roll. Mr. White again states he will reach out to mayor's appointees and gives a brief summary of the last meeting. Brief discussion of Mr. White introduces topic of presentation as public financing and other election issues.

2. Presentations

The Common Cause: Heather Ferguson presented *Public Campaign Financing in Albuquerque Power Point*. (All material presented by Common Cause is available upon request- please reach out to Lindsay Burkhard at 505-768-3105 or lnburkhard@cabq.gov for more information.)

Mr. Antoon clarifies that this presentation is of a proposal and not the current system.

Ms. Ferguson turns the presentation over to Mr. Jim Harrington.

Associated with the Common Cause, Jim Harrington presented to the Task Force, addressing recent court rulings on Public Financing Law, matching public funds and campaign reporting. Then Mr. Harrington introduces proposed revisions to Article 13 and 16. (All material presented by Common Cause is available upon request- please reach out to Lindsay Burkhard at 505-768-3105 or lnburkhard@cabq.gov for more information.) The Task Forces asked Common Cause to prepare bullet points with specific information pertaining to the task at hand. Also, Mr. Melendrez and Mr. Locher offered to look for more information on this topic to provide to the Task Force. Mr. Allen points that the task force should review the federal case law that makes elements of the current law unconstitutional, i.e. the matching funds and reporting aspects of the election code. The Task Force discusses the federal case law. Mr. White discusses the term "Measure Finance Committee". He suggests to re-evaluate the term.

Mr. Locher states analysis of issues as identified by the City Attorney's office. He states that he has done research about the Federal cases that directly impacted charter. Mr. Locher suggests that limiting non individual contributions to campaigns is problematic. Mr. Locher continues on to say that there has to be a finding of corruption or illegal activity to categorically ban campaign donations. Mr. Locher says that section D on page 8 is no longer problematic.

Mr. White asks Mr. Locher to get with the City Clerk to see if the Clerk has any issues with the election code.

Mr. Locher mentions a practice problem. Under city election code if someone does not have a valid id they can cast a provisional ballot. The code states that they have 10 days to come in with proper identification. This is misleading, because the Clerk must canvas the election by noon third day after the election.

New Mexico PIRG gives there support to the Common Cause suggestions.

3. Other Business

Mr. White discusses creating a work plan for the Task Force and asks staff to prepare a draft to be reviewed at the next meeting. Mr. Antoon suggests making public records more available to the public. Ms. Segal asks the task force to consider if mayoral and council appointments to various boards and commissions are reflective and fairly representative of the community. Mr. Antoon addresses the provision that will go before the council in respect to voter legislation by voter initiative. Mr. Melendrez reviews the other proposals to be considered by the Council at the next City Council Meeting, May 18th, 2015

Mr. White brings up the deadline topic and the task Force reviews the time line prepared by Mr. Melendrez. The Task Force then discussed the creation of a work plan.

Mr. White asks staff for list of councilors from similarly situated cities to compare to ABQ.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.