



2010 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.
455 County Center, Room 101, Redwood City, California 94063

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. Call to Order (County Counsel)

Meeting was called to order by Michael P. Murphy, County Counsel

Roll call taken: all members present except Nagler who arrived shortly after the commencement of the meeting.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Michael P. Murphy called for nominations, the following nominations were received for Chair: Sean Foote and Ruth Nagler. Sean Foote received 12 votes and was elected Chair. One nomination was received for Vice Chair, Melanie Hildebrand, who was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

3. Oral Communications and Public Comment

Speakers recognized:

Bernie Sifry, Pacifica Friends of Good Government, who requested information regarding the qualifications of all the committee members.

Michael Stogner, San Carlos, who spoke against the selection process of the Committee members used by the Board of Supervisors, against a SamCEDA representative on the committee, in favor of keeping all elected officials elected, and in favor of looking at the Private Defender Program.

Therese M. Dyer, Pacifica, who requested better publicity of Charter Review meetings, and requested information regarding the qualifications of all the committee members to have been appointed to the Charter Review Committee.

Steve Schmidt, Menlo Park, who spoke in favor of district elections and spoke in favor of special elections to fill Board vacancies.

Kathryn Slater-Carter, Montara, who spoke for making Charter Review information available on a website, the Committee holding meetings on the coast and other parts of the County, and spoke in opposition to filling vacancies by appointment to elected offices and noted there needs to be more contested elections.

Sabrina Brennan, Moss Beach, spoke for better publication of Charter Review Committee meetings, videotaping and televising the Committee's meetings.

Matt Grocott, San Carlos, who spoke for district elections.

Nita Spangler, Redwood City, who spoke for retaining the at large elections for supervisors.

4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of January 13, 2010

Moved approval by O'Mahony, second by Pine

Vote: 15 yes, Faust abstain

[Discussion regarding order of agenda. Item 9 was called prior to item 6.]

5. Discussion and Adoption of Procedural Rules

Discussion as to amendments to proposed rules.

Motion to adopt proposed rules with amendments by Burrow, second by O'Mahony.

Vote to approve: unanimous (amended rules, attached, reflect amendments)

6. Discussion and Adoption of Approach to Review of Charter Provisions

No discussion or action on this agenda item.

7. Discussion of Grand Jury Report Regarding Charter Section 203- Filling Vacancies on the Board of Supervisors

No discussion or action on this agenda item.

8. Discussion of Grand Jury letter of June 30, 2009 to the Board of Supervisors regarding Charter Section 202- Electing Board members by District rather than at large.

No discussion or action on this agenda item.

9. Identification of Potential Charter Amendments for Further Consideration by the Committee.

Committee members identified the following subject areas for further consideration for potential Charter Amendments. The Committee then prioritized these subjects areas by vote. The number of votes is referenced in the () by each item. The Committee recognized that this is an initial list that may be revisited by the Committee.

- 1. Filling vacancies on the Board of Supervisors – (16)**
- 2. Board of Supervisors elections-at large versus by district – (16)**
- 3. Optimize efficiency in the County structure- combining elective offices and or departments – (16)**
- 4. The process for drawing district boundaries – (15)**
- 5. Non-constitutional county officers-should they be elected or appointed – (11)**
- 6. Campaign financing restrictions – (10 or 11?)**
- 7. Qualifications for elected/appointed county officers – (10)**
- 8. Periodic Review of Boards & Commissions – (10)**
- 9. Instant runoff election for County offices – (9)**
- 10. Supervisors' oversight of investment policy/indebtedness – (7)**
- 11. Setting of Board of Supervisors' salaries – (6)**
- 12. Accountability/oversight other elected County officials –(6)**
- 13. Accountability of elected County officials – (4)**
- 14. Private Defender – (3)**
- 15. Citizens' participation in review panel for hiring of department heads – (1)**

APPROVED

10. Written Communications Received by the Charter Review Committee

No discussion or action on this agenda item.

11. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.