



## **2010 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.  
455 County Center, Room 101, Redwood City, California 94063

**The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.**

- 1.) Call to Order and Roll Call

**Meeting was called to order by Chair Foote  
All members present except Miller, Pine and Schulte.**

- 2.) Setting of the Agenda

**No action taken.**

- 3.) Oral Communications and Public Comment

**Speakers:**

**Burt Rifas, Millbrae, spoke for a review of charter sections 206(b)(4) and 305 and their application to commissions, or agencies such as SamTrans in which members of the Board of Supervisors are appointed to and the County gives money.**

**Bernie Sifry, Pacifica Friends of Good Government, who spoke to determining whether it would be in the Committee's purview to review the procedures for unincorporating cities, also noted the high participation rate of the Committee members at the last meeting.**

**Sabrina Brennan, Moss Beach, spoke for videotaping and broadcasting Committee meetings.**

- 4.) Approval of Minutes of Meeting of January 27, 2010

**Motion to approve by Foust, second by O'Mahony**

**Vote: Unanimous approval.**

- 5.) Discussion and Adoption of Procedural Rules

**Motion to adopt the Procedure rules with the following amendment: "Chair invites public comment at appropriate time during the consideration of the time" is amended to read "Chair invites public comment at appropriate time during the consideration of the item. Chair shall close public comment."**

**Moved approval by Foust, second by Noparstak**

**Vote: Unanimous approval.**

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

**Speaker: Marshall Wilson, Director of Communication, County Manager's Office. Mr. Marshall presented the cost estimates for various videotaping services.**

**Motion to approve entering into a contract to videotape each meeting with two cameras at a cost of not to exceed \$600 per meeting, with the ability to terminate the contract if the Committee does not like the quality of the videotaping.**

**Moved approval by Foust, second by Noparstak**

**Vote: abstention by Kessler, unanimous approval by remainder of Committee**

- 7.) Discussion and Approval of Schedule for Future Meetings

**Meeting schedule was determined by Chair with input from members:**

**It is noted that the next meeting will be February 23, 2010 at 5:30, in Redwood City, and the March 24 meeting is changed to March 23 at 5:30 p.m., subject to confirmation of availability of the meeting room in Daly City.**

- 8.) Report by Staff and Discussions of Background and Issues Relating to Five Topics (Including Identified Subtopics) Receiving Highest Indication of Interest

- a. Filling Vacancies on the Board of Supervisors (Subtopics: (1) Process for Filling Vacancies; (2) Rules and Restrictions on Appointees)

- b. Board of Supervisors Elections (Subtopics: (1) At Large versus By District; (2) Process for Drawing District Boundaries)

**Speaker:**

**John Ward, Burlingame, former member of Board of Supervisors, who spoke in favor of elections at large, and “good government”.**

**Sabrina Brennan: Moss Beach, spoke for obtaining data relating to racial diversity in the supervisorial districts, elections costs affect racial diversity on the Board, noted the Madera Unified School District case regarding at large elections and the Voting Rights Act**

- c. County Structure (Subtopics: (1) Combining/Splitting Elective Offices and/or Departments; (2) County Officers Not Required By State Constitution-Elected or Appointed; (3) Charter-Based Qualifications for Elected/Appointed Officers)
- d. Overall County Election Process (Subtopics: (1) Campaign Financing Restrictions; (2) Instant Runoff Election for County Offices)
- e. Periodic Supervisory Review of Boards and Commissions (No Subtopics)

**There was a number of suggestions by Committee members for data that may be helpful for the Committee to have in its review of the topics listed below. Staff committed to ascertain what data was available and to provide the available data.**

- a. Filling Vacancies on the Board of Supervisors (Subtopics: (1) Process for Filling Vacancies; (2) Rules and Restrictions on Appointees)
  - 1. **Further legal research as to whether the charter can provide that appointed supervisors cannot run in the succeeding election.**
  - 2. **Information regarding the voter turnout experience with all mail voting in Oregon.**
  - 3. **Information regarding voter turnout in countywide elections held during the last three years and the dates of each election and whether it the election was for a measure, a candidate or both.**
  - 4. **Summary of Charter County provisions regarding the scheduling of special elections to fill vacancies.**
  - 5. **Studies relating to election trends in election turn outs.**

- 6. Voter turn -out by district, comparison of turn out by vote by mail voters , turn out at the polls, socio economic data by district**
- b. Board of Supervisors Elections (Subtopics: (1) At Large versus By District; (2) Process for Drawing District Boundaries)
  - 1. Information regarding the Tehama County charter change to at large elections at what effect it has had regarding number of candidates or other election related matters.**
  - 2. Article in San Francisco Chronicle regarding San Francisco supervisorial districts.**
  - 3. Population size in San Mateo County supervisorial districts-how does it compare to other counties. (Compare to largest 15 counties, smallest 15 counties, congressional, state senate, state assembly.)**
  - 4. Using Fair Political Practices Commission reporting- cost of candidate campaigns (contested and uncontested) for County office as compared to candidate campaigns(contested and uncontested) for City Council in Daly City.**
  - 5. Are the data referred to in the 1978 and 1980 charter amendment measure campaigns still valid today?**
  - 6. Report on the Madera Unified School District case regarding at large elections and the Voting Rights Act.**
- c. County Structure (Subtopics: (1) Combining/Splitting Elective Offices and/or Departments; (2) County Officers Not Required By State Constitution-Elected or Appointed; (3) Charter-Based Qualifications for Elected/Appointed Officers)
  - 1. Analysis of Charter Counties County officials, which county office are combined, which are elected, appointed, who appoints the county officer**
- d. Overall County Election Process (Subtopics: (1) Campaign Financing Restrictions; (2) Instant Runoff Election for County Offices)
  - 1. Voluntary expenditure limits-for those cities or counties that have voluntary expenditure limits what do the candidates receive if they agree to the limits**
  - 2. Which counties have public financing of elections, what financing is available**
  - 3. Can the Charter provide for a cumulative voting process to elect its county officers?**

e. Periodic Supervisory Review of Boards and Commissions (No Subtopics)

1. **Information regarding the requirement for the State of Texas to periodically review its Boards and Commissions.**
2. **For each San Mateo County Boards and Commissions, determine if it is a mandatory or discretionary board and the budget for each board.**

9.) Written Communications Received by the Charter Review Committee

**No discussion or action on this agenda item.**

10.) Adjourn

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**