

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018 at 10:00 AM  
SAN ANTONIO CENTRAL LIBRARY, AUDITORIUM**

Members Present:	Bonnie Prosser Elder, <i>Chair</i> ; Drew Galloway, <i>Community Representative</i> ; Dr. Tom Brereton, <i>Community Representative</i> ; Don Gonzales, <i>Municipal Finance Expert</i> ; Marc Druck, <i>Former City Employee</i> ; Frank Garza, <i>Municipal Law Expert</i> ; Dr. Charles Cotrell, <i>Human Resources Management Expert</i> ; Dr. Gloria Rodriguez, <i>Community Representative</i> ; Phyllis Ingram, <i>Community Representative</i> ; Margaret Wilson-Anaglia, <i>Former City Employee</i> ; Gyna Juarez, <i>Alternate Community Representative</i>
Members Absent:	Patti Radle, <i>Former Elected Official</i> ; Dr. Henry Flores, <i>Community Representative</i> ; Bonnie Conner, <i>Former Elected Official</i>
Staff Present:	Camila Kunau, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; John Peterek, <i>Assistant to the City Manager</i> ; Caitlin Krobot, <i>Special Projects Manager</i> ; Cecily Hope Pretty, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Rosario Plascencia, <i>San Antonio Housing Authority</i> ; Erin Bley, <i>Kaufman &amp; Killen</i> ; George Peck, <i>Planning Commission</i> ; Nikki Kuhns, <i>Citizen</i> ; George Alejos, <i>Citizen</i> ; Cosima Colvin, <i>Citizen</i> ; Eiginio Rodriguez, <i>Citizen</i> ; Ray Rodriguez, <i>Citizen</i> ; John Butchkosky, <i>Citizen</i> ; Joe Alderete, <i>Citizen</i>

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Bonnie Prosser Elder called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the Minutes from the Charter Review Commission Meeting of May 8, 2018**

Dr. Tom Brereton moved to approve the minutes of the Charter Revision Commission meeting of May 8, 2018. Commissioner Frank Garza seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

**2. Discussion of the Charter Review Commission Subcommittees' Progress and Recommendations**

Chairwoman Prosser Elder reviewed the following Subcommittees and the subjects they were tasked to consider:

- Development: Planning Commission composition and selection

- Public Finance: Allowance to borrow for public improvements or other public purposes, specifically affordable housing
- Ethics: Ethics Review Board (ERB) composition and selection; autonomy and power of the ERB; City's ability to appoint an independent Ethics Auditor
- Governance: Term length and staggering; election date; residency requirements
- Public Outreach: Process for the Charter Review Commission's outreach; completeness of stakeholder list; selection of public hearing locations

Commissioner Phyllis Ingram stated that the Development Subcommittee met regularly and was considering expansion of the Planning Commission. She noted that they had not yet formulated a recommendation to present.

Commissioner Don Gonzales stated that the Public Finance Subcommittee was focused on language that would be approved by voters while accomplishing the goal of allowing the City to issue bonds for the purpose of affordable housing. He noted that they did not want to limit the language to housing as funds may also be needed for infrastructure or improvements to historical buildings. He stated that the Subcommittee was investigating language used by other cities that could be applicable in San Antonio. He noted the importance of working with the recommendation of the Mayor's Housing Policy Task Force to avoid redundancies or conflicting language.

Dr. Charles Cotrell stated that the Ethics Subcommittee had met with ethics experts from around the country. He noted that the Subcommittee recognized the importance of independence for the Ethics Review Board to ensure public confidence even if total independence was not possible. He stated that the Subcommittee was trying to determine the need for an independent Ethics Auditor and what their role would be. He noted that the Subcommittee had not reached a conclusion about the ERB process but would formulate recommendations for future consideration that may not require a Charter amendment.

Commissioner Margaret Wilson-Anaglia entered at this time.

Dr. Cotrell noted the importance of diversity in terms of demographics as well as background in the selection of ERB members.

Commissioner Garza stated that the Governance Subcommittee approved a recommendation to amend Mayor and City Council term lengths from four, 2-year terms to two, 4-year terms. He noted that the Subcommittee was not recommending a change to the signature threshold to initiate a Councilmember recall election but was discussing lowering the threshold to initiate a mayoral recall election. He stated that the legal language allowing the City to move its municipal elections from May to November had expired and the Subcommittee recommended including that language in a future legislative agenda. He noted that the City Council had approved additional residency requirements for candidates so the Subcommittee would make no further recommendations. He asked the Chairwoman to request an expansion of scope from the Mayor to include increasing the number of council districts based on the results of the 2020 census and subsequent redistricting.

Commissioner Gonzales asked for clarification regarding the Governance Subcommittee's consideration of recalls and staggered terms. Commissioner Garza replied that the Subcommittee felt it should examine recalls if term lengths were extended and had not yet come to a conclusion regarding staggered terms.

Commissioner Wilson-Anaglia stated that the Public Outreach Subcommittee identified locations for public hearings and was ready to move forward once dates were selected.

Chairwoman Prosser Elder thanked the Subcommittees for their work to date.

Commissioner Garza asked for clarification regarding the Commission's targeted election date. Chairwoman Prosser Elder replied that they were not currently targeting the November 2018 election but asked Commissioners to continue working diligently until a final timeline was established. John Peterek stated that so long as items associated with recent petitions were scheduled for the November 2018 election, the Charter Review Commission's recommendations would not be considered on the same ballot.

Chairwoman Prosser Elder asked of the reasons to recommend longer City Council terms. Commissioner Garza noted concern that the current term length required too much campaigning during the term period and allowed for too much potential influence from third parties. Dr. Brereton added that the Subcommittee was working with the City Attorney's Office to determine transitional language accommodating the variation in remaining term limits among existing Councilmembers. Commissioner Garza recommended postponing the public input process until after the November 2018 election to avoid public confusion with the petitions.

No action was required for Item 2.

### **3. Discussion of Timeline and Future Meetings**

Chairwoman Prosser Elder stated that the full Commission would be in recess through the month of July but encouraged Subcommittees to continue meeting. She asked staff to provide an updated Commission schedule moving forward.

No action was required for Item 3.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Chairwoman Prosser Elder adjourned the meeting at 10:47 am.

***Respectfully Submitted,***

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***Bonnie Prosser Elder, Chair***

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***Cecily Hope Pretty, Office of the City Clerk***