



Multnomah County Charter Review Public Engagement Subcommittee

February 2, 2022, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING 3

Purpose: To define the scope of the committee's work and review social media graphics drafts

Attendees

Committee Members Present

- Donovan Scribes (he/him)
- J'reyesha (Jay) Brannon (she/her)
- Ana Gonzalez Muñoz (she/ella)
- Maja Harris (she/her)

Absent:

Theresa Mai (she/her)
Jude Perez (they/them)

Staff:

- Kali Odell (she/her), Charter Review Committee Program Coordinator

In addition, members of the public were welcome to observe the meeting as non-participatory attendees. There was one observer at this meeting.

Welcome

Kali Odell opened the meeting with a brief overview of Zoom logistics and the agenda. She acknowledged that this was the first meeting for Donovan and Ana as new subcommittee members. She recapped the work the subcommittee had done at previous meetings on social media graphics.

Defining Scope of Work & Co-Chairs

Kali told the subcommittee that in conversation with the MCCRC tri-chairs, it had been determined that the subcommittee needed to propose the scope of its work for approval by the full committee.

Maja said she was eager to give the subcommittees names and would like to discuss that today to bring to the next MCCRC meeting.

Kali suggested a go-around with each subcommittee member sharing what they were hoping to get out of the group.

Ana said that she was not interested in a group that made informal recommendations as she thought that would be a waste of time. She said she would like to bring formal recommendations to the full committee and said she thought the group would work together to bring forward ideas in the best interest of the committee.

Jay agreed that she would like more decision-making. She noted that in the past their work had been a small part of the agenda and had not moved things forward and she wanted to be able to move ahead with posting graphics and doing outreach.

Maja said she agreed with the above. She also asked if the subcommittee had to have a chair, and proposed that if they did, they make that selection today.

Kali said that she was looking at the bylaws. She said it might be helpful to have a chair who could help facilitate communication and reporting out at the full committee meetings. She thought it would be useful to share subcommittee proposals with the full committee in advance of its meetings, as part of the meeting packet, and she thought a chair could help with that. She also asked the subcommittee if they wanted her to always facilitate their subcommittee meetings. She said a chair or someone else could take on facilitation.

Maja said that they could have a formal chair, but also share in those responsibilities if no one was eager to take the role on. She also said she thought the subcommittee should ask the committee for full authority to communicate with the public on topic areas, such as the Charter review process. There should be limits on them reporting their opinions out, but they should be able to report out on the process or things that the committee had agreed upon.

Ana said she favored shared responsibilities.

Donovan asked how their work related to Kali's role. For example, if they wanted to put out a press release, did the subcommittee need to write that?

Kali said that she was trying to coordinate with County Communications for guidance, but she also thought there was some flexibility here. She said she had previously told the subcommittee that creating social media graphics was not a specialty of hers, so the subcommittee members had worked on some drafts for that. She would take responsibility for distribution, though. She said subcommittee members could reshare posts from her office, but that if they were posting from their personal accounts, there could be issues with public records law – for instance, committee members may be responsible for maintaining all comments. She added that for a press release, they could have a conversation. County resources were at the subcommittee's disposal, but they might want to be engaged in determining what content or points were included in the release.

Kali added that the bylaws did require subcommittees to elect a chair, so even if they agreed to share some of the duties, they should select someone to serve in that role.

Ana asked who was missing from the subcommittee.

Kali said Jude and Theresa were not present, and that Theresa might be resigning from the subcommittee.

Maja said they could also have co-chairs. She asked if anyone had a burning desire to be chair.

Jay asked Maja if she would be willing to serve as co-chairs.

Maja said she was willing and saw this as an in-name-only role, taking on responsibility to report out on the subcommittee's work.

The subcommittee voted on electing Maja and Jay as co-chairs. All four members present voted in favor.

Kali proposed the group return to determining what kind of authority it wanted to ask for from the MCCRC at its next meeting. She recapped some of the suggestions discussed at previous meetings, which included social media graphics and a community survey.

Donovan said he would like to send out a press release about what the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee was and what it was trying to tackle. He said he would like the tri-chairs or subcommittee co-chairs to get in front of media. He said a community survey sounded like a good idea, too.

Maja asked if they should leave more specific survey topics up to the subcommittees to determine.

Donovan said he would not want to step on the toes of any of the subcommittees and that if they did have more specific survey questions, they should consult with the subcommittees about what to ask.

Kali noted that members of the Public Engagement Subcommittee were on each of the other subcommittees, which could help with coordination.

Ana asked if they would be deciding how to engage the public in addition to social media.

Donovan mentioned other potential outreach methods like virtual panels, livestreaming or digital events. He commented that they probably would not be door knocking. He said they could look into mailers.

Ana suggested focus groups and working with culturally specific organizations. Ana said she favored that over mailers. She said mailers were expensive and her experiences were not very effective.

Donovan asked if they had a budget.

Kali said that the committee had some budget, but that it was not very extensive. She was looking into how funding could be reorganized. She encouraged that subcommittee to identify specific engagement goals to help her organize her request for additional funding. She also told them to consider the timeline they were working within, and raised that contracting processes could slow progress.

Ana said she would prefer to use a budget to incentivize participation in focus groups. She said she already had an idea for that – she worked with a group of 20 community leaders and if she could offer them a financial incentive, she could draw them into the process.

Kali raised that the tri-chairs were concerned about subcommittee members overcommitting, and that should factor into their scope.

Jay asked if the subcommittee had to wait to post graphics until after the MCCRC approved the subcommittee's authority.

Kali said yes and acknowledged that it was a bit confusing since her office could post about the Charter review process without committee approval, but that because these graphics were developed by a subcommittee, different rules applied.

Kali also mentioned that translating the materials, which the subcommittee had previously talked about, would take at least a week, so having finalized versions ready before the MCCRC meeting would give her office time to prepare things to be published as soon as committee approval was secured.

Subcommittee members workshopped language for proposing its authority to the MCCRC. They landed on: "We request the authority to design the public engagement process and content, including developing methods of community outreach, without the ongoing need for full committee approval. We will collaborate with County staff and regularly report out to the full committee and welcome the input of the full committee."

Kali noted that since a member of the public was now observing the meeting, subcommittee members should be sure to change their chat settings to "everyone."

The subcommittee voted on whether to forward the proposal to the full committee. All four members voted in favor.

Subcommittee Names

Kali shared subcommittee names Maja had previously emailed her in the chat: Government Accountability, Safety & Justice, Equitable Representation, and Community Engagement. She also shared names that had been suggested at the MCCRC's last meeting: County Government, Legal System, Elections. Finally, Kali shared names Jude had proposed to her over email: Criminal & Legal Justice Subcommittee. Democracy: Governance Subcommittee, Democracy: Elections Subcommittee.

Ana spoke in favor of renaming their subcommittee "Community Engagement Subcommittee."

Donovan said he favored Maja's suggestions.

Kali said if there were not strong preferences, they could present multiple options to the full committee.

Maja said she was in favor of making a recommendation instead of spending more committee time discussing this.

Jay noted a comment in the chat from a community member which said they liked the new names. Jay said she was in favor of going with Maja's suggestions. The subcommittee supported that.

Social Media Graphics & Next Steps

Kali suggested the group could weigh in on the graphic Jude had drafted for their last subcommittee meeting, which Theresa, Jay, Maja, and Jude had favored moving forward with posting.

Ana said she had looked at the graphics and thought they looked good.

Kali said the Office of Community Involvement would be able to post on their social media channels and she hoped to get them posted through county channels, as well.

Kali asked the subcommittee whether members wanted to establish a standing meeting. She noted that she needed to be able to issue the public notice a week in advance of their meetings and that scheduling with six subcommittee members could be challenging.

Maja said she thought at their last meeting, the subcommittee members agreed that the graphics they had drafted worked. She said they could have a design sprint and get four graphics posted pretty quickly after the MCCRC gave the go ahead.

Kali shared the graphics on screen and commented that they might want to make some content updates after the subcommittees reported out at their February MCCRC meeting so that the graphics could better reflect the topics subcommittees planned to focus on.

Donovan said he needed to go. Kali said she would survey the subcommittee about members' availability. They indicated they preferred their next meeting to be held after the MCCRC's February meeting.

She also clarified for Maja and Jay that they could email each other directly to discuss planning for future subcommittee meetings.

Appendix A: Meeting Chat

17:03:51 From Maja (pronounced Maya) Harris (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Welcome! :-)

17:21:07 From Maja (pronounced Maya) Harris (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Jay, would you be interested in being chair? You've got lots of experience with this type of work and you reported out last time :-)

17:33:12 From Maja (pronounced Maya) Harris (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

DRAFT "We request the authority to communicate to and engage with the public via printed materials, social media posts, surveys and online content about the charter review process, the focus areas of the subcommittees, and ways for the community to get involved."

17:36:56 From Maja (pronounced Maya) Harris (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

DRAFT "We request the authority to design, , in conjunction with County staff, the public engagement process without the ongoing need for full committee approval. We will regularly report out to the full committee and welcome the input of the full committee."

17:42:25 From Maja (pronounced Maya) Harris (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

DRAFT "We request the authority to design the public engagement process, including developing methods of community outreach, without the ongoing need for full committee approval. We will collaborate with County staff and regularly report out to the full committee and welcome the input of the full committee."

17:43:09 From Maja (pronounced Maya) Harris (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Should I mention events, panels, etc or does that all fall under the umbrella of "community outreach"?

17:45:10 From J'reyesha Brannon (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

We request the authority to design the public engagement process and content, including developing methods of community outreach, without the ongoing need for full committee approval. We will collaborate with County staff and regularly report out to the full committee and welcome the input of the full committee

17:45:20 From J'reyesha Brannon (she/her) to Everyone:

We request the authority to design the public engagement process, including developing methods of community outreach, without the ongoing need for full committee approval. We will collaborate with County staff and regularly report out to the full committee and welcome the input of the full committee

17:45:30 From J'reyesha Brannon (she/her) to Everyone:

We request the authority to design the public engagement process and content, including developing methods of community outreach, without the ongoing need for full committee approval. We will collaborate with County staff and regularly report out to the full committee and welcome the input of the full committee

17:50:20 From Kali Odell (she/her) to Everyone:

The Government Accountability Subcommittee

17:50:32 From Kali Odell (she/her) to Everyone:

The Safety & Justice Subcommittee

17:50:41 From Kali Odell (she/her) to Everyone:

The Equitable Representation Subcommittee

17:50:51 From Kali Odell (she/her) to Everyone:

The Community Engagement Subcommittee

17:54:22 From Kali Odell (she/her) to Everyone:

- Criminal & Legal Justice Subcommittee
- Democracy: Governance Subcommittee
- Democracy: Elections Subcommittee

17:55:35 From Robbie N. (He or him) to Hosts and panelists:

Going now.Thanks for having me. Like the newer names.

17:57:13 From Maja (pronounced Maya) Harris (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Yes!

18:02:00 From Ana Gonzalez to Hosts and panelists:

after

18:02:23 From Maja (pronounced Maya) Harris (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Sounds good. I can edit these to reflect anything new!