



Office of Community Involvement



Multnomah County Charter Review Committee

January 11, 2022 6:00-8:00 pm

COMMITTEE MEETING 6

Purpose: Deliberate on the division of work between subcommittees; review and discuss community engagement strategies; and assess the committee's work timeline.

Attendees

Committee Members

- Ana del Rocio (she/her)
- Ana González Muñoz (she/ella)
- Annie Kallen (she/her)
- Donovan Scribes (he/him)
- J'reyesha Brannon (she/her)
- Jude Perez (they/them)
- Maja Harris (she/her)
- Marc Gonzales (he/him)
- Nina Khanjan (she/her)
- Samantha Gladu (she/they)
- Theresa Mai (she/her)
- Timur Ender (he/him)

Absent:

- *Danica Leung (she/her)*
- *Georgina Miltenberger (she/her)*
- *Meikelo Cabbage*
- *Salma Sheikh (she/her)*

Staff:

- Dani Bernstein (they/them), Director of the Office of Community Involvement
- Kali Odell (she/her), Charter Review Committee Program Coordinator
- Katherine Thomas (she/her), Assistant County Attorney
- Allison Brown (she/her), JLA Public Involvement
- Ariella Frishberg (she/her), JLA Public Involvement

In addition, members of the public were welcome to observe the meeting as non-participatory attendees. There were three public attendees during the course of the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement, kicked off the meeting with an overview of Zoom logistics and etiquette. The Zoom chat can be found in Appendix A.

Ana del Rocio welcomed committee members and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Discussion: Community engagement strategies

J'reyesha Brannon presented on the conversation a Community Engagement subcommittee (also attended by Kali Odell, Theresa Mai, Maja Harris, and Jude Perez) began earlier in the month. Topics the group discussed included:

- Creating infographics describing the work being done and how community members can get involved
- How to share those infographics through social media
- Meeting frequency and length
- Dividing up labor for upcoming social media posts to highlight the future subcommittees
- Time limits for public comment at main meetings and subcommittee meetings (suggested typically reserving 30-minutes)
- A request from a neighborhood association to come speak at one of their meetings

A full summary of this conversation is available on the MCCRC website: <https://www.multco.us/multnomah-county/mccrc-public-engagement-subcommittee>.

In order to move forward, committee members will need to approve the formation of this subcommittee.

The full committee was given the opportunity share reflections or thoughts on what the subcommittee members shared, including any additional thoughts on public testimony practices and invitations.

- Samantha Gladu thanked the subcommittee members for getting started on the work.
- Annie Kallen also thanked the subcommittee members. She suggested sending a survey out to the community that asks about values, since folks may have an easier time sharing their values and vision even if they don't have as much knowledge about how to get there. In the chat, she added that it would be helpful to invite the auditor to speak.
- Maja Harris suggested holding off on inviting folks to provide testimony until the committee has decided on subcommittee topics and format. There was agreement in the group with this suggestion.
- Additional suggestions were provided in the chat.

Kali reminded the committee that there is time in the agenda for the next meeting for verbal comment. She asked if the committee is ready for that and comfortable with the limitations that have been determined (sign-up deadline, time limit during meeting, etc.). The group was in general agreement to move forward with the proposed plan for verbal comment.

Discussion: Subcommittee topic areas and division of work

Theresa Mai facilitated the discussion about subcommittees, starting with a discussion for potential subcommittee topics. The two proposed groupings were:

Suggestion 1

- Government Structure and Government Inputs
 - DA/County Manager/Sheriff
 - Voting methods/access

- Number of commissioners
- Duties of chair
- Campaign finance
- Apportionment
- Process for electing officials
- Charter Process
 - Auditor
 - Charter Review Committee process
 - Office of Community Involvement

Suggestion 2:

- County Government
 - Auditor
 - Office of Community Involvement
 - Charter review process
 - County manager
 - Salaries
 - Charter language gender-neutral
- Legal System
 - Sherriff
 - DA
 - Auditor
- Elections
 - Voting methods
 - Campaign finance
 - Redistricting
 - Tied elections
 - Number of commissioners
 - Creation and/or filling of vacancies

Suggestion 3 focused on broader topic “buckets”

- Criminal Justice – sheriff, DA, any other CJ topics
- Democracy Committee A – voter enfranchisement
- Democracy Committee B – elections (districts and campaign finance)
- Public Engagement Committee

Committee members were asked to share their reflections on the suggestions.

- Annie and Timur expressed support for Suggestion 2 through the chat.
- Donovan Scribes expressed support for Suggestions 2 and 3.
- J’reyesha liked Suggestion 2 as well as the titles in Suggestion 3.
- Ana del Rocio added some background on how the co-chairs had arrived at the third suggestion. One consideration was capacity and burnout prevention, both for committee members and County staff who will need to attend multiple meetings. The second consideration was making sure all the topics

committee members had expressed interest in were represented, while also balancing how much impact the committee can have. She emphasized the importance of public engagement throughout the charter review process and that having a public engagement subcommittee would help provide structure and consistency for that engagement.

- There was a large amount of support for Suggestion 2 in the chat.
- Maja pointed out that auditor is currently showing up in multiple categories.
- Timur suggested auditor should stay under governance versus being under the legal system.
- The group discussed the benefits and challenges associated with the terms “legal system” and “criminal justice.” The general consensus was to name that subcommittee “Legal System/Criminal Justice.”

Kali reminded the group about the expectations for committee members in terms of joining subcommittees. The expectation was that each committee member would be attending one general meeting and one subcommittee each month, and stipends for committee members are limited to two/month. Committee members are welcome to join more than one subcommittee and meetings may look different moving forward depending on how structure is determined for subcommittees.

Theresa took a temperature check on moving forward with the three groups in Suggestion 2, with the addition of a Public Engagement subcommittee. There were a few additional concerns about the titles for the subcommittees. Ana del Rocio requested more discussion about the names for the other three subcommittees. The group suggested moving forward with a vote on the four topics and workshop the names/titles for the subcommittees in the public engagement subcommittee (which would return with suggested names at a later date).

Vote

Do you vote to approve four subcommittees with the working topics proposed in Suggestion 2 plus a Public Engagement subcommittee?

- All members (12 members) present at the time the vote was taken voted “Yes.”

Kali will send a survey to committee members before the next meeting to assess which committee members would like to serve on what subcommittee(s).

- Maja reminded committee members that they are still welcome to join the Public Engagement subcommittee even though the subcommittee already met once.
- Timur and Marc asked whether it would be possible to meet as subcommittees after the general committee meetings.
 - Katherine Thomas, Assistant County Attorney, reminded the group that subcommittee meetings are subject to the same public meeting laws, so this may or may not be possible due to technical and legal limitations.
- Timur suggested reaching out to folks who are subject matter experts on policy work and government structure.
- It was suggested that the Public Engagement Subcommittee take on the follow-up discussion for naming the other subcommittees.

After this discussion, the committee took a brief break.

Discussion: Committee work plan for 2022 meetings

After the break, Kali presented on the work plan for 2022, starting with the timeline of meetings. Marc Gonzales facilitated a discussion about the process so far, what's been working or not working, how the committee would like to measure progress and milestones, and how committee members would like to move forward in general and subcommittee meetings.

- Timur: I see the subcommittees making recommendations and bringing those to the general group. I assume the general meetings will be spent evaluating and voting on recommendations the subcommittees bring to us, and then sending those things along to the County Attorney's Office.
- Maja: We will need to have a good process for synthesizing any public input we get through our general meetings as well as our subcommittee meetings. We will need to find ways to report out that information back to the full group so that the public knows they have been heard. It will be important to keep that dialogue open.
- Annie: I agree that the larger committee will be discussing the public input at our general meetings. I assume that when we invite subject matter experts to meetings, some will be invited to general meetings and others to subcommittee meetings depending on the topic.
- J'reyesha: It would be helpful to have that survey after this meeting for people to share what subcommittees they are interested in, so we can start making sure there's an even distribution. I know there are also people who have already done some work taking notes on the Charter. Can one of the survey questions be about people's notes on the Charter so we can start getting those thoughts documented?
- Timur: It would also be helpful if we all had the homework assignment to think about what we want to learn more about. Maybe a question on the survey could also be the topic areas we are interested in so that staff can begin scheduling guest speakers.
- Kali shared that folks who served on the 2016 Charter Review Committee would be willing to come as guest speakers, as well as Chair Kafoury.
- Timur: I would be interested in hearing from someone with a background in equitable geographic representation and apportionment.

Public Comment

Kali Odell shared the written public comments that had come in since the last meeting. All public comments can be found on the MCCRC website: <https://www.multco.us/multnomah-county/mccrc-meeting-records>.

- Donovan echoed the comments shared about compensation for charter committee members and that the compensation is not currently reflective of the amount of work and time required. There was additional support for this in the chat.
- Ana Gonzalez Munoz asked for clarification about the comments about terms served. The comment was referring to advisory committees more generally, not specifically talking about the charter review process.

- There was discussion in the chat about who writes the final report. Kali explained that per the bylaws it is a responsibility of the co-chairs, but that anyone on the committee can write it. Generally staff are not writing the final report for the committee, but they can support as needed.

Next Steps and Closing

Allison and Kali wrapped up the meeting with the following items:

- The next full committee meeting is January 19th, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Please let Kali know if you are going to be there so the team can make sure there will be a quorum.
- Staff will put together a survey, with the help of co-chairs, to be filled out by committee members before the next meeting.
- Staff will look at legal and technical options to allow subcommittees to “huddle” after the general committee meetings.

Ana del Rocio thanked committee members for attending and staff members for their support and the meeting ended.

Appendix A: Zoom Chat

Theresa Mai: Hi everyone! I'm fixing a tech issue right now.

Theresa Mai: 😊

Ana del Rocio: Hi, all. I am navigating a tech issue with Zoom government and only able to join by audio at the moment!

Theresa Mai: <https://multco-web7-psh-files-usw2.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Public%20Engagement%20Subcommittee%20Meeting%20Summary%201.04.22.pdf>

Theresa Mai: Link for everyone to see from the Public Engagement Subcommittee!

Timur Ender: I was going to say the same thing; thanks for leading this important community engagement work

Annie Kallen: Seems to make sense to invite the Auditor.

Theresa Mai: Maybe the Association of Oregon Counties? I am assuming they must be following the other charter review processes throughout the state.

J'reyesha Brannon: I was meeting with another non profit whose exec director is part of the Portland Charter. They also expressed interest in meeting with us to collaborate or share similar values. I gave Kali's email to them

Kali Odell: I am meeting with Portland Charter this week to discuss connections between the two committees

J'reyesha Brannon: ^ awesome

Kali Odell: *Portland Charter staff

J'reyesha Brannon: Shall we vote?

Donovan Scribes: ^^ I'm for that

Ana del Rocio: Same, Theresa!

Kali Odell: Do you want me to share?

Theresa Mai: 1. Criminal Justice Committee - Sheriff; DA; any other CJ topics

2. Democracy Committee A - voter enfranchisement

3. Democracy Committee B - elections (districts + campaign finance)

4. Optional (need full group feedback): Public Engagement Committee

Annie Kallen: I like Samantha's list.

Timur Ender: me too

Theresa Mai: Do these groupings cover the areas you are most interested in exploring? Who is interested in joining subcommittees?

Annie Kallen: Maybe each of those broad groupings could be 1 subcommittee, plus community engagement, for a total of 4.

J'reyesha Brannon: I liked Samantha's list, but I also like the titles of the one proposed by the committee chairs

Nina Khanjan: I'm interested in the first committee

Jude Perez: I also like Samantha's list

Ana Gonzalez Munoz: I'm interested in the Criminal Justice and Samatha's proposal.

Ana Gonzalez Munoz: *Samantha's

Samantha Gladu: We might want to decide which one they land in, rather than both! —> to Ana del Rocio's point around limitations of the committee to impact sheriff and DA, auditor could work well in legal system

Annie Kallen: I have a feeling these sub-committees will break up in to sub-sub committees too.

Ana del Rocio: Thanks, Theresa! For some reason I am not able to see folks' chats? I see yours and Kali's but that's it :/

Kali Odell: The group can see yours, Ana.

Marc Gonzales: I agree with Timur's statement.

Samantha Gladu: I call it legal system because I do think it provides justice in many cases :) but I'm open

Allison Brown: (I also love tri-chairs! great name, y'all!)

Ana del Rocio: Definitely! We opted for general titles that captured and made room for the specific areas already named.

Annie Kallen: Unfortunately we have a lot of important topics to review and not a lot of time to do it.

Jude Perez: I'm interested in the elections grouping

Timur Ender: me too for elections

Samantha Gladu: elections!

Maja Harris: I'm interested in elections and County Government

Annie Kallen: I'm especially interested in elections, but also the other two.

J'reyesha Brannon: interested in all, but I'll narrow it down to what is most needed by the committee

Jude Perez: I also like county gov.

Donovan Scribes: Criminal justice, elections.... And I have a heart for public engagement too but I am only but one human....

Marc Gonzales: I am interested in County Govt structure

Annie Kallen: I feel that Donovan

Annie Kallen: Are we assuming the subcommittees would be meeting once a month each?

Donovan Scribes: Do we need this on the screen still?

Marc Gonzales: I expect that subcommittees would be setting their own agenda, based on the size of the undertakings, with the approval of the large group.

Ana Gonzalez Munoz: You can give me extra hours in the day 🙄

J'reyesha Brannon: engagement subcommittee is proposing 30 min shorter meetings

Marc Gonzales: The portions of unused general MCCAC meeting time might be used for subcommittee activity.

Ana del Rocio: I also want to make sure we are incorporating folks' feedback around needing a set of subcommittee names that we can work these topics under and communicate to the public around. I see correlation between the topics in Samantha's list and subcommittee names Democracy B/A, Criminal Justice, and Democracy A/B in that order. Is that what other folks are seeing, too?

Theresa Mai: On the record, I would be interested in all subcommittees.

J'reyesha Brannon: Legal Systems/ Criminal Justice

J'reyesha Brannon: combo

Ana del Rocio: I like that combo!

Donovan Scribes: 2nd the combo ^

Annie Kallen: Makes sense

Dani Bernstein: I've also heard the term "Criminal Legal System"

Marc Gonzales: Legal System/Criminal Justice works for me

Timur Ender: yeah, feels accessible

Ana del Rocio: Thumbs up on Legal System/CJ

Allison Brown: Where we're at right now: County Government, Elections, Legal System/Criminal Justice, Community Engagement

Marc Gonzales: Public Engagement is a good candidate for being a standing committee that works in team work with each subcommittee.

Ana del Rocio: The groupings I'm totally behind, it's the titles I'd like to workshop a bit more.

Ana del Rocio: Could we vote on Committees 1, 2, 3?

Ana del Rocio: I vote yes.

Samantha Gladu: Thank you!

Robbie N. (member of the public): I will be leaving in five minutes. Thanks for putting my testimony on public record on your site. I will try to attend the criminal justice and public engagement committee. I like the no restrictions that members can comment or ask on public testimony. Sorry, I cannot stay at the meeting. Zoom fatigue is real since I was on three hours Zoom meeting before. Robbie N.

Theresa Mai: Thank you for tuning in, Robbie!

J'reyesha Brannon: I like that

Ana del Rocio: Would the community/public engagement committee be able to come back to the full group with some recommended subcommittee names at a future meeting? I think y'all are optimally positioned to lead welcome & inclusive branding of external-facing work :)

Annie Kallen: Do we have "breakout room" capability in this version of Zoom?

Allison Brown: Not in webinars, Annie, but there could be other options!

J'reyesha Brannon: The State did a State Board Commission info session with multiple sessions where people left to boards they were interested.

Samantha Gladu: yayaya

Ana del Rocio: Back!

Ana Gonzalez Munoz: Back

Ana Gonzalez Munoz: yes

Allison Brown: For some additional ideas, the Portland Charter Commission has spent some of their full commission time doing group learning: inviting folks with experience in topics relevant to their work (exploring different forms of government, different kinds of elections, etc.) to give presentations to the group

Timur Ender: ^ Love that.

Theresa Mai: I like it. It makes me think of Jay's mention of Portland City Charter.

Samantha Gladu: I like that!

Ana del Rocio: Love the survey idea.

Jude Perez: Yes!

Samantha Gladu: I wonder about connecting committees on email threads and supporting initial scheduling, too?

J'reyesha Brannon: Yes! good idea. I'm on a board with a lawyer who used to be on a Charter committee. I bet he'd be interested too

Maja Harris: Great idea

J'reyesha Brannon: From what I've heard, they're trying to narrow down their interest topics. Really think we'd learn a ton from them if we could meet with them first

Maja Harris: More Equitable Democracy made a presentation to the City of Portland Charter Commission

J'reyesha Brannon: Thanks Marc for facilitating this!

J'reyesha Brannon: Y'all are so good at facilitating. I like having three voices to hear and lead us

Ana del Rocio: Thanks, Marc!

Donovan Scribes: We've got 2 observers still!

Theresa Mai: Thanks, Donovan!

Donovan Scribes: Not seeing the comments tho Kali

Katherine Thomas: <https://multco-web7-psh-files-usw2.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Comment%20from%20Robert%20Noche.pdf>

Katherine Thomas: <https://multco-web7-psh-files-usw2.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Comment%20from%20Brandon%20Goldner.pdf>

Katherine Thomas: All records here: <https://www.multco.us/multnomah-county/mccrc-meeting-records>

Timur Ender: Kali- who drafts the final report? Is that staff or lead by 1 or more cmte members?

Theresa Mai: From our previous meetings, I understanding it can be a collaboration between staff and members interested in composing the final report.

Theresa Mai: *understand

J'reyesha Brannon: State of Oregon Commission of Black Affairs offers \$30 for all meetings, work on documents / policies, up to a certain amount per month.

J'reyesha Brannon: I want to second Donovan's comment

J'reyesha Brannon: So it's like a \$30/hr type of thing

Theresa Mai: I want to thrice (?) Donovan's comment as well, especially on compensation. A potential question I have is whether it's within our purview in the charter review process.

J'reyesha Brannon: Considerations should incorporate how much an hour of childcare includes, how much dinner is for evening meetings, etc.

Jude Perez: +++++

Timur Ender: it should also be indexed to inflation

Annie Kallen: Good point Timur

J'reyesha Brannon: City of Portland has a lump sum \$500 I think? And, then Metro is just amazing and offers upwards of \$75 per meeting, but they're both funded differently.

Allison Brown: As we close out, folks, feel free to drop into the chat anything that worked well this meeting, and anything that we could do differently in the future!

Theresa Mai: Uh, I will make sure to not crash my computer as I facilitate next time.

Annie Kallen: No worries Theresa! Not your fault. You guys all did great!

Allison Brown: lol it was great, Theresa! :)

Ana del Rocio: I'll be there!

Samantha Gladu: I'll be there

Maja Harris: I'll be there

Annie Kallen: I'll be there

Jude Perez: I'll attend

Theresa Mai: I can't come to next week's meeting because of life. 😞

Marc Gonzales: I would be happy to engage with the Multnomah neighborhood folks

J'reyesha Brannon: I'll be there. maybe late

Timur Ender: The mtg times generally work really well for me but next week is a bit unusual and I don't anticipate being able to make it

Ana Gonzalez Munoz: I can attend

Nina Khanjan: I'll be there