



Office of Community Involvement



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE MEETING 1

September 28, 2021, 6pm – 8pm via Zoom

### Attendees

#### Staff:

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

#### Committee Members

- Marc Gonzales
- Ana del Rocío (she/her)
- Ana González Muñoz (she/ella)
- Annie Kallen (she/her)
- Danica Leung (she/her)
- Donovan Smith (he/him)
- Georgina Miltenberger (she/her)
- J'reyesha Brannon (she/her)
- Jude Perez (they/them)
- Maja Harris (she/her)
- Meikelo Cabbage
- Nina Khanjan (she/her)
- Samantha Gladu (she/they)
- Theresa Mai (she/her)
- Timur Ender (he/him)

In addition, members of the public were welcome to observe the meeting as non-participatory attendees. There were around four attendees over 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.

Chair Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, welcomed the committee members. She shared the importance of the committee and the work they are going to be doing. She expressed gratitude for committee members' time and energy and highlighted the importance of equity and accessibility throughout the process. She encouraged committee members to reach out to her and her office with any questions or concerns. Chair Kafoury can be reached at [Deborah.kafoury@multco.us](mailto:Deborah.kafoury@multco.us).

Allison Brown then invited committee members to introduce themselves. They were invited to share what they do, where they are located in Multnomah County, and the lenses they are bringing to this work. Themes from these introductions included:

- A desire for justice – racial justice/racial equity, environmental/climate justice, reproductive justice, transportation justice
- Putting equity into practice, not just on paper
- The importance of centering and bringing voices in that have historically been excluded to the forefront and dismantling barriers and structures that aren't working and rebuild them to bring people in who have been left out
- A passion for making things better
- A personal connection to the Multnomah County community
- An interest/background in politics, community organizing, public service, and community capacity and leadership
- Excitement about learning together/from each other
- Shared values: creativity, authenticity, truth and reconciliation, collaboration, learning together, curiosity, and flexibility.

Katherine Thomas, Assistant County Attorney, asked that committee members send questions for her office through their staff contact.

Allison explained there would be time at the end of the meeting to share feedback on meeting processes that worked/did not work and encouraged committee members to get in touch if they had additional needs that are not being met.

The committee took a five-minute break after these introductions.

## Overview of County Governance and Charter

Dani Bernstein, Multnomah County, and Kali Odell, Multnomah County, presented a slideshow on Multnomah County governance, the County charter, and the charter review process. Slides are [available here](#). A few high-level notes:

- The County Charter includes:
  - County characteristics
  - Scope of county's powers
  - Elected offices
  - County election rules
  - Compensation for elected officials
  - Library district
  - Local public improvement projects
  - Charter review process
- Charge to the Charter Committee:
  - Comprehensive Charter review
  - Report on findings
  - Recommend amendments (optional)

Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions after the presentation was over.

- Question: Do we need to come to a consensus and agree on one charter issue as a whole, or will we be presenting our ideas individually?
  - Kali: You'll have the chance to share the ideas you have as well as hearing input from outside the committee. After you've heard these ideas you will decide as a group which topics you'd like to tackle. Sometimes in the past this has been done in subcommittees, with each subcommittee tackling four to five topics. The process for making those decisions is something the group will decide over the next few meetings.

- Is there a version of the Charter in a Word document where we could collaboratively communicate about it (for example, a shared document online, etc.)?
  - Kali: We can provide a Word document you can make notes on for yourself. Katherine's presentation will give more details
  - Katherine's presentation clarified that any written communication between a quorum of members constitutes a public meeting and would need to be appropriately noticed. All members will likely not be able to all collaborate electronically on a shared document under public meetings law.
- What action will the County Commissioners be taking once we submit our recommendations to them? What happens once we present recommendations to the Board?
  - Kali: The report is to share with the Commissioners what your recommendations are. The Board refers the proposed amendments to the voters.
- How will subcommittees be designed and how will that work? What is the process for this committee? When will we actually get started?
  - Kali: It's dependent on the group to come up with those processes. Those conversations will happen over the next few meetings. It is dependent on what works best for the group.
  - Allison: That can also feel scary to people, but we are here to help and provide examples for how this might work!
- The 2016 report from the last Charter Review process is a lengthy and polished document. Is there a primary person responsible for drafting the final report, either staff or from the Committee?
  - Kali: It is usually drafted by Committee members. Again, it will depend on what works best for the group. But likely you'll decide on a couple of members who are primarily responsible for drafting and who will then bring drafts to the full Committee to get revisions and eventually a final sign-off.
- Is there a plan for interacting with the work the City of Portland Charter Commission is doing?
  - Kali: There's currently no plan for that but we can make one if that feels valuable to people!
  - Allison: And I am the facilitator for that work as well, so this work is not happening entirely in a silo.
- How are questions or suggestions from members of the public routed? Do they come through staff?
  - Kali: There are options for how to do this. Generally, they would come through staff, but we can also invite public input through meetings or an online form, etc.
- How will we be communicating with each other and what are the impacts of public records laws?
  - Kali: What a perfect segue into our next presentation!

## Responsibilities as a County Public Official

Katherine Thomas, Assistant County Attorney, gave an overview of the rules and responsibilities associated with committee members' role on the committee. The slides from this presentation can be [found here](#). A few high-level notes included:

- Public Officials: You cannot use your role as a public official to gain financial benefit or avoid financial harm.
  - This applies whether at a Charter Review Committee meeting or not.

- Can apply to relatives, members of household, or business with which members are associated.
- Public Records Law: 1) the public has a right to inspect public records, unless an exemption applies and 2) the County (including CRC members) must retain records in a retrievable manner for a set period of time
  - Records retention schedule is online: [www.multco.us/records/retention-schedules](http://www.multco.us/records/retention-schedules)
  - When in doubt, assume it qualifies as public record and must be retained.
- Public Meetings: A quorum of the CRC cannot meet in private to decide on or deliberate toward a decision.
  - Quorum is defined by the bylaws, current default is “majority of members.”
  - A “meeting” can also include conference calls, emails, group text messages, etc.
  - Requirements for public meetings: notice, location, accessibility, public attendance, and minutes

Due to time constraints, committee members were encouraged to ask their questions in the Zoom chat (found in Appendix A).

## Next Steps and Closing

Allison wrapped up the meeting with the following items:

- A Jamboard for members to fill out to share feedback on what worked/didn't work about the meeting.
- Contact Kali Odell with any additional questions, comments or concerns about the charter review process, or responsibilities as a public official.
- Read through the final portion of the County charter that outlines charter review governance.
- Watch their emails for additional resources and homework ahead of the next meeting.

## Appendix A: Zoom Chat

Deborah Kafoury: Feel free to reach out to me at any time! [deborah.kafoury@multco.us](mailto:deborah.kafoury@multco.us)

Allison Brown: Up next: Dani, Maja, Theresa, Georgina and Jude

Allison Brown: Introduce yourself with: Name and pronouns

What do you do with your time?

Where in the County are you?

What lenses/values are you bringing to this work?

Allison Brown: Up next: Jude, Ana Gonzalez Munoz, Meikelo and Annie

Allison Brown: Continuing: J'reyesha, Donovan, Timur and Nina

Ana González Muñoz: One of my values is ruttred around public education. I wan to learn more about how the county supports or not public education.

Timur Ender: My name is pronounced Timore, like Baltimore

Allison Brown: Let's continue with Timur, Danica, Marc, Samantha and Ana del Rocio

Ana González Muñoz: Hi Nina, good to meet you. I'm the Chair for the RSD Board of Directors.

Nina Khanjahn: I recognized your name! So glad to have you!

Donovan Smith: Popping off camera briefly, still listening!

Samantha Gladu: yresssss

Theresa Mai: yes!

Ana González Muñoz: Yes

Timur Ender: Election = county

Jude Perez: Yes

J'reyesha (Jay) Brannon: yes!

Ana del Rocío: Yes.

Danica Leung: Yup!

Samantha Gladu: nope

Ana González Muñoz: No

Theresa Mai: No

Ana del Rocío: No.

J'reyesha (Jay) Brannon: No

Timur Ender: no = city govt

Jude Perez: No

J'reyesha (Jay) Brannon: City of PDX - my job!

Theresa Mai: No

J'reyesha (Jay) Brannon: No

Ana del Rocío: No.

Ana González Muñoz: No

Timur Ender: bridges

Danica Leung: No

Jude Perez: No

J'reyesha (Jay) Brannon: PBOT / ODOT / FHA

Timur Ender: unincorporated county roads and county bridges

Ana del Rocío: Y

Samantha Gladu: yes

Theresa Mai: yes

J'reyesha (Jay) Brannon: yes

Ana González Muñoz: Yes

Timur Ender: yes - public health

Samantha Gladu: yes

Ana del Rocío: Y

Theresa Mai: yes

Ana González Muñoz: Yes

Timur Ender: yes - I did!

Jude Perez: Y

Ana del Rocío: Y

Theresa Mai: Yes

Ana González Muñoz: No

Jude Perez: Yes?

Timur Ender: no?

Ana del Rocío: N

Theresa Mai: No

J'reyesha (Jay) Brannon: no

Ana González Muñoz: No

Timur Ender (he/him) to Hosts and panelists: no!

Ana del Rocío: But Sheriff...

Ana del Rocío: 

Kali Odell: Yes!

Danica Leung: What will deciding about the subcommittees look like?

Nina Khanjahn: Check out the office lens app if you have a microsoft account

Nina Khanjahn: For making documents digital

Annie Kallen: Thanks!

Nina Khanjahn: 

Katherine Thomas: To clarify, the Board does refer the proposed amendments to the voters

Samantha Gladu: I would love for that to happen, great question Donovan!

Allison Brown: Folks, if you have questions, feel free to pop them into the chat and we can collect them

Maja Harris: One question: When we submit a legal question about the charter to staff and that gets routed to Katherine, will the answer be distributed to the other committee members as well?

Ariella Frishberg: Allison: [Allison.brown@jla.us.com](mailto:Allison.brown@jla.us.com)

Kali: [kali.odell@multco.us](mailto:kali.odell@multco.us)

Kali Odell: [kali.odell@multco.us](mailto:kali.odell@multco.us)

Allison Brown: [https://jamboard.google.com/d/1\\_K-25ecipzWpr8WX\\_\\_vt9\\_UyIN3Lob6tbHW-qNd9E58/edit?usp=sharing](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1_K-25ecipzWpr8WX__vt9_UyIN3Lob6tbHW-qNd9E58/edit?usp=sharing)

Timur Ender: Great meeting everyone; look fwd to working with yall!