



Multnomah County Charter Review Public Engagement Subcommittee

January 4, 2022, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING 1

Purpose: Discuss goals for the public engagement subcommittee, start developing public engagement strategies for the MCCRC, and develop guidelines for public comment to propose to the MCCRC.

Attendees

Committee Members

- J'reyesha Brannon (she/her)
- Jude Perez (they/them)
- Maja Harris (she/her)
- Theresa Mai (she/her)

Staff:

- Kali Odell (she/her), Charter Review Committee Program Coordinator
- Katherine Thomas (she/her), Assistant County Attorney

In addition, members of the public were welcome to observe the meeting as non-participatory attendees. One member of the MCCRC attended to observe only.

Welcome

Kali Odell opened the meeting with a brief overview of Zoom logistics and etiquette.

Committee structure

To date, the MCCRC Public Engagement Committee consists of J'reyesha Brannon, Maja Harris, Theresa Mai and Jude Perez. The subcommittee will operate without a chair until the full MCCRC has taken a formal vote to approve the subcommittee at its upcoming January 11 meeting. Any MCCRC members who are interested in joining the subcommittee are welcome to do so before the next subcommittee meeting.

The subcommittee discussed meeting as needed and with scheduled 15 minute “design sprints” to provide feedback on social media posts and messaging to be in compliance with public meetings law.

Goals and expectations

The subcommittee discussed goals and expectations. Priorities include encouraging and soliciting public input and engagement from individuals and community/grassroots organizations in Multnomah County and supporting the Office of Community Involvement in its education efforts about the Charter review process.

Strategies for achieving these goals may include:

1. Social media posts using the Office of Community Involvement's social media handles
2. Online public surveys that can be shared with community partners
3. MCCRC members using their own social networks to engage the public
4. Asking County Commissioners to post about opportunities for public input
5. Direct invitations to organizations and individuals to offer input
6. Collaborating with the County's communications department
7. Collaborating with other subcommittees to solicit public feedback on specific issues

Action items

The subcommittee expressed interest in exploring the possibility of seeking funds to engage with a local community organization to assist with public engagement efforts and education.

Additionally, members discussed exploring whether MCCRC social media posts could be shared via Multnomah County's official Twitter, Facebook and Instagram handles.

The subcommittee also supported exploring whether members of the public would be able to submit comments via video, such as Youtube.

Kali Odell will inquire about the viability of these items.

Members agreed to work independently on some draft examples of social media posts to share in the full MCCRC meeting scheduled for January 11th. J'reyesha Brannon volunteered to share about the subcommittee's work to date with the full committee.

Guidelines for public input

The subcommittee discussed general guidelines for public input and agreed on the following recommendations:

1. Starting at the full MCCRC meeting scheduled for February 16th, 2022, a 30-minute period should be set aside at the end of each meeting for public comment. This time can be adjusted as needed.
2. Subcommittees should also offer opportunity for public comment.
3. The MCCRC can add public comment/listening session meetings as needed.
4. The deadline for signing up for verbal testimony should be 4pm the day before the meeting.

5. The deadline for written comments should be the Friday before the scheduled public meeting to give committee members enough time to read comments. Comments submitted after the deadline will be considered for the next meeting.
6. There should be no restrictions around committee members interacting with testifiers or asking questions, but members should use common sense and make sure to limit interactions if these conversations risk cutting into other testifiers' time. The committee can invite testifiers back or solicit additional input later if there is interest in learning more from a particular source.