



**City of Madison**  
**Minutes – Approved**  
**Task Force on Structure of City Government**  
**Boards, Commissions and Committees**  
**Subcommittee**

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
[www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com)

Monday, November 19, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Madison Municipal Building, Room 110  
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

**NOTE: POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
EXISTS AT THIS MEETING**

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Yog hais tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, ib tug neeg txhais ntawv, cov ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom siv tau cov kev pab, cov kev ua ub no (activity) los sis qhov kev pab cuam, thov hu rau tus xov tooj hauv qab yam tsawg peb hnub ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.

Office of the City Attorney (608) 266-4511

[Legislative File No. 50732](#) - DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE TASK FORCE

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Meeting Called to Order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Rothschild, Castañeda, Kemble and Northrop

Absent: Upchurch

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Rothschild, second by Kemble to approve minutes of October 24, 2018. Passed on voice vote.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this meeting.

**4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS**

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

**5. SELECTION DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Subcommittee selected Monday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday December 12 at 11:30 am, Thursday, January 10 at 11:30 am and Thursday January 17 at 11:30 am for future meetings.

**6. FINALIZATION OF WORK PLAN FOR COMPLETING SUBCOMMITTEE WORK BY FEBRUARY OR MARCH, 2019**

The Subcommittee confirmed that the work plan developed in the previous meeting would allow it to provide input to the full Task Force in January and February and to provide a formal report to the Task Force in March.

**7. DISCUSSION OF STRENGTHS AND POTENTIAL OF THE CURRENT BOARD, COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The Subcommittee chose to combine the discussion of items 7 and 8. The subcommittee several challenges to the current Board, Commission and Committee ("BCC") structure. First, the subcommittee noted that it is very likely there are simply too many BCCs, many of which turn out to largely be discussion groups that sap alder time and do not have direct accountability to any one body. They further discussed that the data reviewed so far indicate that the BCCs lack diversity and, therefore, are not representative of the city's population. Finally, they noted that these factors limit the potential of the nearly 100 BCCs to truly be the form of representative democracy that many people view them to be. As a result, the current structure gives the sense that Madison has a very participatory democracy when, in fact, this may not be true. The subcommittee further discussed issues related to appointment powers, whether there should be term limits for BCC members and chairs, how BCCs are staffed, and ensuring that with or without a formal BCC structure there needs to be a forum for robust participation from all city residents, not just those who serve on a BCC. The subcommittee began a discussion of possible alternative structures and processes that may address some of the challenges identified in the current structure.

**8. DISCUSSION OF CHALLENGES AND AREAS OF NOTE OF THE CURRENT BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND IDENTIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVES THAT COULD ADDRESS THOSE CHALLENGES**

See above.

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The subcommittee discussed that the next agenda will likely focus on a more in depth review of the city's current BCC structure.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Rothschild, second by Kemble to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.