



City of Madison

Minutes - Draft

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Task Force on Structure of City Government Boards, Commissions and Committees Subcommittee

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

12:00 p.m.

City-County Building, Room GR-27
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

NOTE: POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OR TASK FORCE ON GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE 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 hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.

Office of the City Attorney (608) 266-4511

[50732](#) Documents related to the Task Force on the Structure of City Government

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m.

- a. Present: Justice Castañeda, John Rothschild (by telephone), Eileen Harrington (alternate), Keith Furman (alternate), Maggie Northrop, Rebecca Kemble
- b. Absent: Eric Upchurch
- c. Also Present: Karl Van Lith, Bill Fruhling, Alder Grant Foster, Cam McLay, Brenda Konkel, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Laura Noel, John Strange

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 14 2019 MEETING

Motion to approve minutes by Harrington, second by Northrop. Motion approved by 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. DISCUSSION AND DEBRIEFING OF STAFF COMMENTS RECEIVED AT JUNE 14, 2019 MEETING

Discussion of June 14, 2019 meeting with City Staff. Each member discussed key takeaways from the meeting with staff. Topics included the apparent tension between staff and alders and BCC members, threats to personal safety of staff who work with BCCs, the difference between professional disagreement and personal safety, accountability, huge amounts of staff time required to staff BCCs, lack of or uneven enforcement of rules of procedure for BCCs, cost of running BCCs as a way to evaluate value or retaining them, role of BCCs vis a vis the Common Council and Mayor's Office, training and support, need for rules of procedure to apply to Council members and BCCs, the varied quality of BCCs, venue shopping, multiple referrals, rigid rules of procedure (like Robert's Rules) that may prohibit participation, and need to figure out a way to evaluate value of each BCC.

The Subcommittee also engaged in a lengthy discussion of how it will be important for it to discuss the various roles of the Mayor, Council, and BCCs and how that relates to the structure of government and accountability of the BCCs.

Staff noted that a transcription of the city staff meeting should be available around July 15.

6. DISCUSSION OF PLAN FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF POSSIBLE OFFICE OF RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES (ORENS)

The Subcommittee then engaged in a discussion of the possibility of forming an Office of Resident Engagement and Neighborhood Services (ORENS). Laura Noel attended the meeting and said that she had reviewed a draft proposal. She cautioned against pulling staff out of the existing departments because even if those staff do resident engagement they also perform other functions in the department that would be severely missed if they were pulled out of the department. She suggested looking at examples set by RESJI and other programs that empower people to engage in resident engagement.

Mayor Rhodes-Conway also attended the meeting and spoke about the ORENS proposal. She encouraged the subcommittee to focus on larger picture questions related to ORENS like whether the City needs to hire experts to do only resident engagement or whether it should be the responsibility of each department to do resident engagement; or, is it a combination of both. Then, she encouraged the subcommittee to think about why engagement is important – is it about information sharing, equity, sustainability, or a combination of considerations. At the moment, she said resources are thin and that the budget would likely only be able to support the addition of one full-time employee. Thus, she again encouraged the subcommittee to wrestle with some of the higher level questions and not necessarily implementation issues.

The Mayor's comments evoked further discussion about the reason for engagement and what it means to have meaningful engagement. Perhaps, some suggested, engagement was more of a priority for some BCCs than others. Finally, the subcommittee noted previous comments made by the Mayor suggesting that some areas, like those BCCs involving housing committees, should go through a process similar to the Transportation Ordinance Review Committee rewrite to determine the best system for addressing housing related issues.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Subcommittee will meet on July 15, 2019 at 1:00 pm and July 19, 2019 at 10:30 am for the primary purpose of further discussing the ORENS concept as well as some of the issues raised in this meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Harrington, second by Kemble to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.