



City of Madison

Minutes - Draft

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

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

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

4:00 p.m.

Madison Municipal Building, Room 151
215 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

Called to Order at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Justice Castaneda, John Rothschild, Alder Rebecca Kemble, Alder Keith Furman
Absent: Eric Upchurch, Maggie Northrop

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes available for approval.

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 OF PLAN FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BCC ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROPOSAL

A. BCC ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DRAFT

The Subcommittee discussed the revised Office of Resident Engagement and Neighborhood Support concept. Specifically, the Subcommittee discussed that the position should likely not be housed in the Clerk's Office as originally discussed. There was discussion about whether a better placement may be in the Common Council office. Ultimately, the Subcommittee decided it did not need to decide where the position would be housed. The Subcommittee agreed that the City needed a person in such a position and agreed as to the position's functions as described in the proposal. The Subcommittee agreed it was ready to bring this issue to the full Task Force on August 13.

6. BCC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE PROPOSALS

The Subcommittee heard brief presentations from John Rothschild and John Strange regarding alternative structures for the BCC system. Ultimately, the Subcommittee focused its discussion on three main questions.

A. Whether to have lead committees

Alder Foster questioned whether a structure involving "lead committees" was necessary and whether it would result in multiple referrals further slowing things down. This led to a discussion about what the true role of the Lead Committees would be – as overseer of lower BCCs or as a body that actually had to approve and make final recommendations on work done by the lower BCCs. John Rothschild reiterated that the idea of Lead Committees was to create a system of accountability where the Lead Committees would oversee ensure the usefulness and effectiveness of the BCCs organized under them. Others suggested that perhaps rather than Lead Committees each BCC would be overseen by the Common Council Executive Committee (CCEC). Having said this, the Subcommittee noted that seeing the visual clusters of BCCs was helpful to imagining how the structure could be streamlined and, even if not ultimately deciding on a Lead Committee structure, wanted to preserve these visuals as it addressed other issues facing the BCC system.

B. Whether to have BCCs on which no alders are members.

Alder Furman stated he was struggling with the part of the plans that had a large number of BCCs without alders as members. He said that he thought this was problematic in that it created BCCs with unelected residents who potentially have quite a bit of influence and power. Having an alder on committees ensures the perspective of an elected official who would be able to provide insight related to larger issues facing the city. John Rothschild mentioned that one of the reasons for having BCCs with no alders was to reduce the amount of time alders had to spend on BCCs, which has been noted as a significant concern. Alder Foster noted that while less meetings would be great, as an alder he does not mind attending meetings if they are productive. Rather, he'd prefer to focus on eliminating those meetings that are unproductive (e.g., a waste of time). The Subcommittee also discussed how another way to save alder and staff time is to reduce the total number of BCCs in the system, thus reducing the number of BCCs they have to sit on.

C. Whether to eliminate and/or combine BCCs.

The Subcommittee discussed that they generally agree the city needs to pare down its number of BCCs. ACA Strange pointed out that the structures proposed by the Office of the City Attorney showed some examples of how that might be done. The Subcommittee discussed whether TFOGS should make those recommendations or create criteria for others to apply when making those decisions.

The Subcommittee noted that none of the proposed alternatives directly addressed other issues facing the BCC system, such as appointment and diversity.

The Subcommittee decided it needed to meet again to further discuss these issues and to decide on how it would write an additional Report summarizing its potential recommendations.

7. COMPLETION OF SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

No discussion on this topic.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

No discussion on this topic.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kemble, second by Rothschild to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.