



City of Madison
Minutes - Approved
Task Force on Structure of City Government
Government Officials Subcommittee

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

Thursday, October 11, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Alicia Ashman Library
733 N. High Point Road

**NOTE: POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OR TASK FORCE MAY BE PRESENT**

If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this service, activity or program, please call the phone number below at least three business days prior to the 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

Documents related to the Task Force are attached to Legislative File I.D. NO. [50732](#)

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Rothschild, Upchurch

Absent: Harrington

Other TFOGS members present: Kemble and Northrop. Skidmore arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Staff present: City Attorney Michael May and Karl Van Lith

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Upchurch and seconded by Rothschild to approve Minutes of the September 21, 2018 meeting of the Government Officials Subcommittee. Motion approved 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. TESTIMONY FROM CURRENT AND FORMER COMMON COUNCIL, BOARD, COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- a. Alder Barbara Harrington-McKinney
- b. Alder Samba Baldeh
- c. Former Alder Chris Schmidt
- d. Nan Fey
- e. Others may appear and testify

The Subcommittee heard testimony from two persons, former Alderperson and Council President Chris Schmidt, and Nan Fey, currently on the Food Policy Council and formerly on a number of city bodies, including chairing the Plan Commission. The TFOGS members present also asked questions.

Alder Schmidt indicated that the TFOGS should carefully study whether a problem is structural, cultural, or personality-driven. The latter two are beyond the scope of the TFOGS. He indicated the current model for the Council does not work, and the Council should be full time with more staff help. The amount of work can overwhelm a person, and the current model was for a day that was much simpler than the world now. More staff could provide some institutional memory even if the Council turns over. He said the Council president should serve for more than one year. Schmidt was not convinced about at-large seats, only because he thought it might make the most politically active districts effectively be able to elect two members of the Council.

Nan Fey supported the reduction in the number of BCC. She said it should be done strategically rather than randomly. She thought some committees made of residents only might be effective, but she also said the committees needed some relationship to the Alders. She also thought the City should make greater use of Ad Hoc or Task Forces of short duration to deal with specific issues. Committees should have a staff person assigned to them. She also expressed concern about lobbyists influencing committee action. Citizen participation will never change much as long as meetings are held downtown. She also supported the idea of resident participation by skype or telephone or some other method, so they need not come downtown.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE TASK FORCE

The TFOGS members present asked questions of Chris Schmidt and Nan Fey.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No discussion as the Subcommittee is likely done with its work.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Upchurch and seconded by Rothschild to adjourn *sine die*. Passed on voice vote at 7:45 p.m.