



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved TASK FORCE ON STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT

Friday, September 28, 2018

6:00 PM

Goodman Community Center
149 Waubesa Street, Bolz Room A

NOTE: Possible Quorum of the Common Council Exists at this Meeting

[50732](#)

Documents related to the Task Force on the Structure of City Government.

THE TASK FORCE MAY SUSPEND THE RULES TO STAND INFORMALLY AND ALLOW FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND ENGAGEMENT OF ANY AGENDA ITEM

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Paul E. Skidmore; David Ahrens; John E. Rothschild; Justice M. Castañeda; Maggie Northrop and Eileen Harrington

Absent: 3 - Sheri Carter; Rebecca Kemble and Eric S. Upchurch

Upchurch arrived at 6:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Rothschild, second by Alder Skidmore to approve the minutes of September 17, 2018. Motion passed on a voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Landsness spoke to the Task Force about the importance of incorporating processes that promote making decisions without conflict. Mr. Landsness previously provided the Task Force with several emails on alternative decision making processes that he believes would benefit the City of Madison. Copies of these e-mails can be found in Legistar File 50732.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF MATERIALS PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

The Task Force discussed the data provided by the Office of the City Attorney regarding the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committees and noted this as a likely area for recommended change. Discussion points included: 1. the high overall number of BCCs; 2. the apparent redundancy of some BCCs; 3. the

existence of some BCCs that have likely not met in a while; and 4. the overall disorganization of the structure of the BCCs.

The Task Force also discussed whether the number of BCCs and total number of BCC members creates a veneer of public participation that is not representative of the whole community and noted that any changes made to the BCC structure must include recommendations for achieving greater public participation and input.

Finally, the Task Force noted some possible recommendations it could make on this item, including eliminating some BCCs, consolidating some BCCs, and/or reorganizing the BCC structure (e.g., through the use of larger supercommittees that receive feedback from small and perhaps ad hoc committees with specifically defined purposes).

6. DISCUSSION OF WHETHER TO RETAIN THE SERVICES OF ANNETTE MILLER FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH SERVICES

The Task Force decided it was too early to make a decision on whether to retain the services of Annette Miller and discussed the possibility of putting out a competitive bid for such services at the appropriate time.

7. UPDATE ON STATUS OF EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Task Force noted that the work of the government officials subcommittee was winding down and that, given the discussion under Item 5, it would be appropriate to form a subcommittee on Boards Commission and Committees to further explore the issues noted above and to begin to formulate some possible recommendations the Task Force could make to the Common Council.

Task Force members Northrop, Castañeda, Upchurch, Rothschild, and Alder Skidmore volunteered to be on the subcommittee, with Castañeda likely serving as chair. A motion made by Northrop, seconded by Skidmore, to create the Subcommittee on Boards, Commissions, and Committees consisting of the above individuals passed on a voice vote.

8. UPDATE ON TASK FORCE FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULES AND MEETING LOCATIONS

The Task Force noted its upcoming meetings, as well as those of the Government Officials Subcommittee and Executive Subcommittee.

9. OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

No discussion.

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Items for future agendas include 1. Developing recommendations on the structure of City Boards, Commissions, and Committees, and 2. Preparing to receive public input.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ahrens, seconded by Castañeda, to adjourn, passed by voice vote.
Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.