



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

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

1:00 p.m.

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

**NOTE: POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE
STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT OR THE COMMON COUNCIL
MAY BE PRESENT 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 pab hnuv 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 1:08 p.m.

Present: John Rothschild, Justice Castañeda, Rebecca Kemble

Absent: Eric Upchurch and Maggie Northrop (arrived at 1:26 p.m.)

Also Present: City Attorney Michael May, Brenda Konkell, John Brown and Jennifer Pease

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Kemble, second by Rothschild to approve minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting.
Motion approved on a voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments. Motion by Kemble, seconded by Rothschild to suspend Robert's Rules to stand informally to allow participation by members of the public. Motion approved on a voice vote.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

5. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING CONS OF CURRENT BOARDS, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Motion by Kemble, second by Rothschild to recess at 1:12 to allow staff to copy the ORECO proposal drafted by Kemble. Approved voice vote. By unanimous consent, reconvened at 1:17.

ORECO is the Office of Resident Engagement and Community Organizing. This would be a new, independent department, with a single person in charge of the office. It would pull together a number of persons from other offices in the city and likely add other, new positions. The office would be a joint effort of the Mayor and the Council, perhaps the CCEC.

As amended during discussions at the meeting, the primary functions of the new office would be:

- Recruitment of and communication with potential board, commission and committee members
- Orientation, training and support of board, commission and committee chairs and members
- Administrative support for boards, commissions and committees
- Training of staff, Alders, and board, commission and committee members in Legistar
- City-wide and District-specific communications on behalf of Council, Mayor and other city departments with no communication staff
- Organization and facilitation of neighborhood and community meetings
- Outreach and education about city initiatives in collaboration with other city agencies
- Organizational support for community-led initiatives
- Engage and advocate for new ways for residents to participate in decision making and give prompt and direct feedback on issues that people have expressed interest in
- Facilitate annual evaluation of boards, commissions and committees

The subcommittee reviewed the problems identified in its update to the TFOGS and found that the proposal addressed many of them. Some it addressed in part. For example, while it might improve diversity on BCC due to active recruiting, that may or may not solve broader issues of representation. It would assist the BCC in learning and staying within their authority, but more would be needed, and the training component was essential. It also was seen as bringing a minimal level of effectiveness and competency to BCC, while the subcommittee recognized there would always be differences in staffing various BCC. ORECO would bring some key advantages, such as a staff with institutional knowledge to the workings of BCC, and freeing alders from some of their workload.

John Brown indicated that his organization already did a lot of work bringing together disparate elements to assist the community. Castañeda explained that this was a related, but different, model, to make it easier for groups like Mr. Brown's to engage with the city.

There are some areas that the ORECO proposal does not address, such as the appointment process, the number of BCC or that it would directly address diversity. The subcommittee discussed whether the term "community organizing" was a proper one for the roles and functions of the ORECO. Although the subcommittee seemed to think it might come up with a better description, nothing was agreed upon at this meeting.

6. DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULE FOR PREPARATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT TO THE TASK FORCE

Staff was directed to begin work on a final report and suggest a time line to the subcommittee.

7. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The subcommittee set up another meeting on Tuesday, 2/5, at noon, room TBD. That meeting will review the updated ORECO and address appointment process for BCC.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Kemble, second by Northrop, approved on a voice vote. Adjourned at 2:46 pm.