



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

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

Friday, January 18, 2019

2:00 p.m.

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

NOTE: POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE TASK FORCE ON STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT OR THE COMMON COUNCIL EXISTS AT THIS MEETING.

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

[Legislative File No. 50732](#) - DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE TASK FORCE

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Call to Order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Maggie Northrop, John Rothschild, Ron Trachtenberg and Justice Casteñada

Absent: David Ahrens, Eric Upchurch (arrived at 2:20 p.m.)

Others Present: Rebecca Kemble, Alder Furhman, Brenda Konkel, Grant Foster, City Attorney Michael May, Assistant City Attorney John Strange

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Northrop to approve the minutes from 1-11-19 meeting, seconded by Castañeda.

Approved by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Motion by Northrop to suspend Robert's Rules and stand informally and allow for public discussion and engagement on any agenda item.

- a. Brenda Konkel and Grant Foster participated throughout the meeting.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

5. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Will pick up this topic at the next meeting.

6. DISCUSS PLANS FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF SUBCOMMITTEE AND ISSUING A FORMAL REPORT TO THE FULL TASK FORCE ON GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The subcommittee reviewed their discussions regarding 1) whether to keep two-year terms for alders, 2) whether to have staggered terms, 3) whether to impose term limits on alders, and 4) whether to recommend maintaining geographical districts, moving to at-large districts, or creating a hybrid of geographic and at-large districts.

The subcommittee did not reach consensus on whether to move to four-year terms. The subcommittee discussed that if the City were to move to full-time alders it should revisit this issue.

The subcommittee reached consensus that it was not in the city's best interest to go to staggered terms.

The subcommittee reached consensus that it was not in the city's best interest to impose term limits on alders. The subcommittee discussed that if the City were to move to full-time alders it may be necessary to impose term limits.

The subcommittee did not reach consensus on whether and how to change district representation. Additional pros and cons of doing so were discussed, including that one of the cons of geographical districts is that geography in and of itself as a basis for district delineation can be an inherent problem that promotes parochialism and strengthens the impact neighborhood associations can have on an individual alder. On the other hand, the subcommittee discussed the unknown of how moving to all at-large could impact representation, citing the example Janesville where the council is made up of at-large alders who all live on the same side of town. Finally, the subcommittee discussed the unknown of how a hybrid system would impact the power structure of the Council itself, by creating two classes of alders, one of which (the at-large members) who might claim a city-wide mandate. Other subcommittee members grew more comfortable with the idea of at-large members and questioned whether there was really a downside to trying it given the known cons of purely geographical representation.

The subcommittee asked that City IT make a presentation at a future meeting regarding the city's current capability of accommodating residents and members who wish to participate in meetings from remote locations.

The subcommittee discussed the process of writing the final report to the Task Force, including that City Staff will write the report and the subcommittee will review, comment, and assist in editing the report.

At this point, the subcommittee referred further discussion and review of topics to its next meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Northrop, seconded by Upchurch to adjourn. Passed on voice vote. Adjourn at 3:35 p.m.