



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

6:00 PM

Room 206, MMB
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

[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: 8 - Paul E. Skidmore; Keith Furman; Syed Abbas; Rebecca Kemble; Ronald M. Trachtenberg; John E. Rothschild; Roger Goodwin and Eileen Harrington

Absent: 3 - Justice M. Castañeda; Maggie Northrop and Eric S. Upchurch

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Northrop arrived at 6:08 p.m.; Upchurch arrived at 6:18 p.m.

Others present: Karl Van Lith, Sue Hoffenberg, Cam McLay, Christian Albournas and City Attorney Michael May

Chair Harrington announced that Alder Abbas would not be present for the remaining meetings because of an ongoing conflict.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No meeting minutes were presented.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this meeting.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals at this meeting.

5. SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 OPEN HOUSE AT WARNER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

About 50 people attended. Comments have been collected, but need to be written up. The FEED kitchen did a great job with the food. A number of residents had good questions for the TFOGS members. Overall, the Task Force thought the two open houses were important outreach aspects.

6. UPDATE FROM MAYOR'S WORK GROUP

The Work Group (a subcommittee of TFOGS) met on September 12, 2019. Roger Goodwin presented the draft minutes of the group. After discussion and one typographical change, a motion was made by Goodwin and seconded by Trachtenberg to approve the minutes as amended. Passed on a voice vote.

After further discussion of the issues raised, primarily about the broad span of authority of the Mayor and the numerous persons directly reporting to the Mayor, a motion was made by Goodwin and seconded by Trachtenberg to adopt the recommendations at the end of the minutes as the report of the TFOGS on Mayoral Powers. Trachtenberg offered an amendment, seconded by Goodwin, to treat the first set of statements under Section 5 of the minutes as the findings, and the second set of recommendations as recommendations. The motion included adding the language "pursuant to sec. 3.54(9)(c), MGO" at the end of the third recommendation on evaluation of department and division heads. The amendment was approved on a voice vote, and the amended motion was approved on a voice vote. Staff is to include those portions of the minutes in the TFOGS report, and also to note that TFOGS made an earlier finding not to abandon the Mayor-Council form of city government for a City Manager or Commission form.

7. DECISIONS REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE IN FINAL REPORT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES, INCLUDING:

TFOGS moved on to discussing the remaining issues regarding the Report of the Subcommittee on Boards, Commissions and Committees (BCC).

The section of the Report left for consideration was section VI, on pages 8 and 9 of the Report. Section VI.a., concerns reorganizing the BCC structure around lead committees and determining which committees will have alder representation. It was noted that this item had been referred to the next TFOGS meeting on October 2, when issues on the organization of the Common Council will be considered.

Section VI.b. of the Report concerns the nature of the ORENS or BCC administrative support proposal. It was noted that this issue had been resolved at the last TFOGS meeting, although the TFOGS is awaiting the minutes of that meeting that describe the actual language adopted.

Section VI.c. of the Report concerns the manner of appointments to the BCC. Currently, nearly all appointments are made by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council without any referrals. The Report suggested three alternatives to this approach. After discussion, the TFOGS determined not to adopt any of the three alternatives as presented. Rather the TFOGS adopted this to be included in the Final Report on this issue.

Purposes: TFOGS urges the City to improve transparency, increase diversity of representation and have greater collaboration in the BCC appointment process.

Recommendation: In order to achieve the stated purposes, the Mayor shall

nominate alders and others proposed for positions on the BCC (with the existing limited exceptions). Upon introduction of the nominations at the Common Council, the nominations shall be referred to the Common Council Executive Committee (CCEC). The CCEC shall promptly consider the nominations and either recommend approval, referral back to the Mayor's office, or referral to the Mayor's office with suggestions of possible new or different nominations. In making its recommendations, the CCEC shall consider, among other things, the purposes set out above. The CCEC's recommendations will then return to the Common Council for action.

Appropriate changes to the relevant Madison General Ordinances will be made to accomplish this recommendation, including establishing an outside time limit for action by the CCEC.

Motion by Trachtenberg, second by Rothschild to approve the above language. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Section VI.d. of the Report concerns creating a technology plan to improve resident engagement. After discussion, the TFOGS voted to approve the language of the Subcommittee Report with two amendments, noted below:

The (DELETE: Subcommittee) (ADD: TFOGS) believes a key component to increasing representation and resident engagement is to create a robust technology plan that will create new avenues for resident engagement. These include but would not be limited to 1) remote participation of BCC members and the public in BCC meetings, 2) notification or alerts of issues coming before BCCs, (ADD: including the ability to follow items based on interest, impact, category, geography, etc., and to see how they are resolved;) 3) platforms on which to submit feedback to certain items under consideration, and 4) (DELETE: a ticketing system that would allow residents to follow items of interest and see how they are resolved) (ADD: creation in one accessible place a display of the current and upcoming vacancies on BCC to facilitate the application process).

The TFOGS believed that the former subsection (4) was now captured in the amended subsection (2) and that information on vacancies is critical.

Motion by Goodwin and second by Furman to adopt the above language with amendments as part of the Final Report. Passed on a voice vote.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

October 2, 2019, 7:00 p.m. - Room 206, MMB
October 16, 2019, 6:30 p.m. - Room 103, CCB

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Goodwin and second by Rothschild to adjourn. Passed on a voice vote. Adjournment at 8:13 pm.