



**2012 Charter Revision Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2011
Minutes**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gonzalo Barrientos
David Butts
Fred Cantu
Delia Garza
Richard Jung
Ann Kitchen
Delores Lenzy-Jones
Fred Lewis

Nelson Linder
Dr. Fred McGhee
Margaret Menicucci
Susan Moffat
Ken Rigsbee
Ted Siff
Kathleen Vale

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Gonzalo Barrientos. All Committee members were present.

1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2011 MEETING

Motion by Lenzy-Jones, second by Kitchen; motion passed unanimously.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL (3 minutes to speak)

Members of the public signed up to speak on this item were Charlie Jackson and Albert Johnson.

3. NEW BUSINESS

The Committee may discuss and take action on the following agenda items. Citizens are invited to sign up to speak for 3 minutes on specific agenda items.

- A. Report from the Charter Amendment Working Group regarding overview of proposed charter amendments and proposed recommendations to Council (Vice Chair Kitchen, Siff, Moffat, Lewis, Menicucci)

Working Group made seven recommendations. These are to be 7 separate items on the ballot, in addition to a separate 'single member district' item on the same ballot, and in addition to more items on the same ballot that will be discussed at future meetings:

- 1. Move date of Austin's municipal elections from May to November (no change to stagger, term length, or term limits; no decision regarding whether terms should be cut short or lengthened for May-to-November transition);**
- 2. Prohibit Council members from switching places for the purpose of avoiding term limits;**
- 3. Make number of required initiative and referendum petition signatures the same as number required for petition for charter amendments. Specify**

number of signatures as five percent of the number of the municipality's qualified voters;

4. City Attorney reports directly to council and appoints deputy city attorneys;
5. Council appoints Council staff
6. City Clerk appoints deputy clerks (eliminate council authority to appoint deputy clerk)
7. City Auditor appoints deputy auditors

Motion: Recommend to the City Council to place on the ballot the following items, as seven distinct ballot items. The wording of the ballot items should reflect the subcommittee comments. The subcommittee is directed to work with staff to determine the ballot language to bring forward with these items in the recommendation to City Council. Motion made by Siff, Second by Kitchen; motion passed 14-1, Lenzy-Jones voting nay.

- B. Public input process update (Vale)

Report by Vale regarding website, phone line, Austin Notes, Speak Up Austin, and Speak Week. Discussion regarding translations and the public input process.

- C. Discuss mapping issues and map format recommendation: single member districts; at-large districts; hybrid plans; and number of districts (Kitchen)

Discussion of threshold issues: whether to support single member districts, and if so, how many districts. Discussion of whether Board will comment on existing maps, create a map, or look to an independent committee to create a map. Members of the public signed up to speak on this item were Mary Rudig, Debbie Russell, John Lawler, and WR (Peck) Young.

- D. Housekeeping matters: scheduling future speakers.

Discussion of schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Moffat at 9:00; motion passed unanimously.