



2024 City of Dallas Charter Review Commission

Meeting Record

The Charter Review Commission meetings are recorded.
Agenda materials and recordings are available online at www.dallascityhall.com.

Meeting Date:
January 23, 2024

Convened:
6:36 pm

Adjourned:
9:19 pm

Commission Members Present:

The Honorable Allen Vaught, Chair
David de la Fuente, District 1

The Honorable Miguel Solis, District 2
Lisa LeMaster, District 3
Isaac Steen, District 4
The Honorable Adam Medrano, District 6,
Vice Chair
Stuart Campbell, District 7
Gregory Franklin, District 8
P. Michael Jung, District 9
The Honorable Patti Clapp, District 10
Terry Lowery, District 11
The Honorable Adam McGough, District 12
The Honorable Angela Hunt, District 14

Commission Members Absent:

Nancy Bernardino, District 5
Marshall Mills, District 13 (departed at
7:47)

AGENDA

Call to Order 6:36pm
A quorum was present

**Approval of January 11th, 2024 Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes
Presenter(s): Allen Vaught, Chair**

Approval of minutes from the previous commission meeting. Commissioner Medrano moved to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The motion carried with no opposition.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): APPROVED

- A. Delete the section allowing the city council to provide urban conservation, rehabilitation, and redevelopment programs in Chapter XV § 2. [Amendment 86] Submitted Amendments Recommended for Exclusion: Amendments 10, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 47, 51, 53, 54, 55, 60, 68, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 80, 81, 84, 89, and 92.***

Prior to voting, the Chair made note that Amendment 55 was included on the list in error, and it was not recommended for exclusion. Any vote on the list would not include it. Commissioner Campbell motioned to remove Amendment 53 from the list for exclusion, thereby placing it back on the Commission's schedule for consideration at a later date. Commissioner Hunt seconded. The motion carried with 8 votes in favor and 5 in opposition (Commissioners LeMaster, Medrano, Clapp, Lowery, and McGough opposed).

Commissioner de la Fuente made a similar motion for Amendment 89, which was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Following discussion in which the City Attorney's Office clarified the recommendation based on language in the Texas Constitution, Commissioner de la Fuente withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Franklin moved to exclude the list, as amended, from further consideration. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion, which carried with no opposition.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): MOVED TO EXCLUDE THE LIST AS AMENDED

- B. Delete the section allowing the city council to provide urban conservation, rehabilitation, and redevelopment programs in Chapter XV § 2. [Amendment 86]**

Commissioner McGough suggested that rather than delete the verbiage within this section, staff should come back with updated verbiage. Commissioner Solis suggested that it should be written in with positive language rather than the current negative language. Following discussion, Commissioner McGough motioned to hold Amendment until the next meeting so staff could bring back updated language to reflect the conversation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Solis and carried with no opposition.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): HELD UNTIL FEB. 6

- C. Rename the Zoning Commission to the City Plan and Zoning Commission and allow that commission's membership to contain a minimum of 15 residents in Chapter XV, § 3. [Amendment 4]**

Commissioner Medrano moved to exclude this amendment from the final list for consideration. Commissioner McGough seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): MOVED TO EXCLUDE

D. Amend the process for appointing the chair and members of the plan commission to reflect current practice in Chapter XV, § 3. [Amendment 87]

Commissioner Jung moved to exclude this amendment from the final list for consideration. Commissioner Medrano seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): MOVED TO EXCLUDE

E. Allow city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in Chapter IV § 5, Chapter XV § 3, Chapter XVII § 2, and Chapter XXIV § 13. [Amendments 19 and 67]

Following discussion, Commissioner Jung moved to include the amendment allowing all boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in the final list for consideration. Commissioner Hunt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): MOVED TO INCLUDE

F. Remove the requirement to have a Thoroughfare Plan from Chapter XV § 8. [Amendment 24]

Commissioner McGough moved to exclude this amendment in the final list for consideration. Commissioner Clapp seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): MOVED TO EXCLUDE

G. Amend language within Chapter IIIA § 2 to allow the City Secretary the ability to hire all staff within their office. [Amendment 58]

Discussion with the City Secretary explained how hiring processes go for offices outside the jurisdiction of the City Manager's Office. Commissioner Hunt suggested that other council appointees like the City Auditor and the City Attorney may also desire to change the language in the Charter chapters governing their work.

Commissioner Hunt moved to hold this item until February 6th, to get further information from the City Auditor's Office and the City Attorney's Office explaining their position on the matter and whether they would recommend this be included language for their departments. Commissioner Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): HELD UNTIL FEB. 6

H. Delete the requirement that all assistant city attorneys shall devote their entire time to the service of the city in Chapter VII § 2. [Amendment 56]

During discussion, Commissioner McGough explained his experience working in the City Attorney's Office and how this provision was handled. He made note that exceptions were already able to be made.

Commissioner McGough moved to exclude this item from further consideration. Commissioner Campbell seconded. During discussion, Commissioners Franklin and Hunt both made note that City attorneys may want to seek employment that does not conflict with their work for the City. Commissioner Hunt suggested that the language be narrowed down to only prohibit the practice of law.

Following the discussion, Commissioner McGough withdrew his motion and moved instead to hold the item until the City Attorney's Office could return language to address the comments made. Commissioner Hunt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): HELD UNTIL FUTURE DATE

I. Delete provisions in Chapter XXII § 3 pertaining to the procedures for the opening and public inspection of bids. [Amendment 43]

Commissioner Jung asked what the process would be for the transparency of competitive bids. The City Attorney's Office explained that state law governs the process for transparency, and this change only gives the option to protect confidential information. If such protections were deemed necessary, the City would consult with the Texas Attorney General's Office.

Commissioner Jung moved to include this amendment in the final list for consideration. Commissioner Hunt seconded. She noted that for voters to understand this amendment would not prevent transparency, it would have to be worded clearly. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): MOVED TO INCLUDE

J. Abolish the Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem positions or amend the appointment process of the Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem positions in Chapter III § 11. [Amendments 8 and 39]

The Commission engaged in robust discussion about the practice and customs of City Council's officer elections.

Commissioner McGough moved to exclude Amendment 8 from further consideration. Commissioner Franklin seconded.

Commissioner Campbell moved to amend the motion to defer Amendment 8 to a later date, because proposed Amendment 95 would be directly affected by any decision and was not on the meeting agenda. Commissioner de la Fuente seconded. The motion carried 7-6, with Commissioners LeMaster, Steen, Franklin, Clapp, Lowery, and McGough in opposition.

Commissioner Campbell again moved to hold Amendment 39 to a later date for the same reason. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and carried unanimously.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): HELD UNTIL FUTURE DATE

Adjourn 9:19pm

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

Allen Vaught, Chair
Charter Review Commission

Jake Anderson, Coordinator
Charter Review Commission