



City of Santa Clara

Charter Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee Group 4

City Council: Elections, Powers and Conduct of Meetings

February 12, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Sparacino Conference Room



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Proposed Meeting Agenda

- Distribute Notes/Minutes Template and Confirm Responsibility for Meeting Report Out
- Recap of Subcommittee Activities
- Staff Presentation of Outstanding Issues and Proposed Modifications
- Identification of New Issues
- Next Steps



Recap of Group Four Activities

- **First Meeting on November 13, 2025**
 - Attended by Members Field and Brooks, staffed by GRG
 - Presentation on Meeting Logistics, Charter Basics, Charter Project Basics, Preliminary Staff Presentation of Assigned Sections, Identified Areas for Improvement, and Solicitation of Feedback
 - Report out at CRC Meeting on November 19, 2025
- **Second Meeting on December 15, 2025**
 - Attended by Members Sosinski, Field and Brooks, staffed by JB
 - Extensive discussions on
 - (1) adding a removal “for cause” provision
 - (2) pros and cons of adding requirement for an Ethics Commission,
 - (3) qualification requirements (consensus to maintain “qualified elector” requirement. Also discussed removing ability to meet in closed session and staff as “ex officio” members.
 - Action to appoint Brooks as Chair, Sosinski as Vice Chair, with Secretary TBD
 - Report out at CRC Meeting on January 21, 2026

Staff Presentation Of Issues And Proposed Modifications

- See underline/strikeout mark up (with comments) of the City Charter, including:
 - In General [Section 1000] wording and reorganization.
 - Funding and “Staff Support” [Section 1001]
 - Appointments, Terms and Vacancies [Section 1002] adding and expanding definition of what constitutes a vacancy; discuss pros/cons of “for cause”
 - Conduct of Meetings [Section 1003], mostly rewording and reorganization, with proposed deletion of “closed session” right, replacing with an explicit Brown Act reference

Staff Presentation Of Issues And Proposed Modifications (Cont'd)

- Compensation [Section 1004] - added language for reimbursement to reference need for a budget and compliance with policies
- Oaths/affirmations/investigations [Section 1005] - discuss appropriateness of this extraordinary power
- Planning Commission [Sections 1006 and 1007] - still under review; reference City Code Section 2.120.050 re: list of duties; CAO presentation to PC now scheduled for middle of March
- Parks and Recreation [Sections 1008 and 1009] - preliminary staff concerns with how broad and misaligned with current practices Commission powers are; reference City Code Section 2.120.060
- Board of Library Trustees [Sections 1012 and 1013] - preliminary (informal) input from BLT/staff around converting “administration and approval” of things to “advise and input.” Next BLT meeting on March 2; desire to present at next subcommittee meeting.

Other Issues?



Next Steps

- Calendar next Subcommittee meeting
- Assign Committee Member/Staff Follow Ups
- Confirm process for preparing and presenting report out to CRC at upcoming February 18, 2026 meeting

