



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Charter Review Committee

10/17/2019

7:00 PM

Northside Branch Library, Community Room
695 Moreland Way
Santa Clara, CA 95054

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Jain called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present 7 - Member Benjamin Cooley, Vice Chair Steven Silva, Member Christine Koltermann, Member Katherine Almazol, Chair Sudhanshu Jain, Member Stephen Ricossa, and Member Richard Bonito

2. Public Presentations

Public Presentations: None.

3. Approval of Draft Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes

- A. [19-1182](#) Action on the Charter Review Committee Minutes of the September 21, 2019 Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the Charter Review Committee Minutes of the September 21, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Member Koltermann and seconded by Vice-Chair Silva to approve the September 21, 2019 meeting minutes.

Aye: 7 - Member Cooley, Vice Chair Silva, Member Koltermann, Member Almazol, Chair Jain, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito

- B. [19-1185](#) Action on the Charter Review Committee Minutes of the September 26, 2019 Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the Charter Review Committee Minutes of the September 26, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Member Koltermann and seconded by Member Ricossa to approve the September 26, 2019 meeting minutes.

Aye: 7 - Member Cooley, Vice Chair Silva, Member Koltermann, Member Almazol, Chair Jain, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito

4. Receive Public Input

Chair Jain opened the meeting for public input.

Public Speaker(s): 3

Public Speaker 1: The speaker noted that if the Committee recommends anything other than six districts it will be going against the preference of a majority of people that took the survey. The speaker strongly recommends adopting six districts and noted that three districts will likely result in more litigation and that three districts with two representatives per district will be considered at-large.

Public Speaker 2: The speaker noted that residents in one part of the City have different needs than those in another part. The City Council must adopt the order of the trial court judge and stop the appeal.

Public Speaker 3: The speaker responded to the first speaker's comments.

5. Verbal Report from City Clerk on Survey Results and Other Feedback Received to Date

[19-1183](#)

Verbal Report from City Clerk on Survey Results and Other Feedback Received to Date

City Clerk Haggag reported on the survey results received as of the day of the meeting.

6. Verbal Report from Committee members on Public Input Received to Date

Member Koltermann, Member Cooley and **Chair Jain** each provided a report on public input they had received as of the day of the meeting.

7. Discussion and Action on Recommended Charter Amendment Language including:

- Review of Potential Residency and Redistricting Language
- Review of Redistricting Language Options
- Potential Input on How Initial Districts will be Drawn

[19-1181](#)

Proposed Draft Charter Amendment Language Regarding District Elections

Committee Members began discussing items to recommend to City Council. The first discussion was a review of potential residency and redistricting language.

A motion was made by Member Koltermann and seconded by Member Ricossa to adopt the draft Charter Section 600 as presented by the City Clerk and City Attorney with the changes noted by the Committee to clearly identify those elected offices elected at-large versus by-district.

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Silva, Member Koltermann, Member Almazol, Chair Jain, and Member Ricossa

Nay: 2 - Member Cooley, and Member Bonito

Committee Members reviewed and discussed the draft amended Charter Section 700 language regarding how Councilmembers are elected.

A motion was made by Chair Jain and seconded by Vice-Chair Silva to recommend the draft Charter Section 700 language to City Council.

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Silva, Member Almazol, and Member Ricossa

Nay: 3 - Member Koltermann, Chair Jain, and Member Bonito

Abstained: 1 - Member Cooley

Committee Members continued discussing proposed language to recommend to City Council on how Councilmembers are elected.

A motion was made by Member Cooley and seconded by Member Bonito to recommend to move to 3 districts with 2 members to be elected in alternating election cycles.

Aye: 5 - Member Cooley, Vice Chair Silva, Member Almazol, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito

Nay: 2 - Member Koltermann, and Chair Jain

Committee Members discussed the transition to the new 3 district model with 2 members elected from each district.

Chair Jain opened the floor for public comments.

Public Speaker: (1)

Steve Chessin made the following recommendation in terms of a transition plan:

To keep the six council districts for the November 2020 election followed by a transition plan to three council districts with two representatives per district to be elected in alternate election years beginning in 2022, with one representative serving a two-year term to realign. The transition plan would be as follows:

- November 2020 - One councilmember will be elected to represent each of districts 1, 4, 5, and 6 for a four-year term based on the court ordered districts.
- November 2022 - One councilmember will be elected to represent each of the newly formed District 1 and District 2 for a four-year term.
- November 2024 - Districts 1 and 2 will each elect one person for a four-year term. The newly formed District 3 will elect two councilmembers. The candidate with the highest number of votes for District 3 will serve a four-year term and the candidate with next highest number of votes will serve a two-year term.
- November 2026 and every election thereafter- Districts 1, 2 and 3 will each elect one councilmember for a four-year term.

A motion was made by Chair Jain and seconded by Member Ricossa to adopt the transition plan outlined by Mr. Chessin.

Aye: 5 - Member Cooley, Vice Chair Silva, Chair Jain, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito

Nay: 2 - Member Koltermann, and Member Almazol

Committee Members continued to discuss residency requirements.

A motion was made by Member Ricossa and seconded by Member Koltermann to adopt the sample language from the City of San Jose, which requires candidates for a City Council seat to be a resident in the district for at least 30 days prior to the close of the nomination period.

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Silva, Member Koltermann, Member Almazol, Chair Jain, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito

Nay: 1 - Member Cooley

Committee Members discussed possible redistricting language.

A motion was made by Member Cooley and seconded by Member Ricossa to recommend the alternate section language, which recommends the Santa Clara City Charter be amended to state that the method by which Districts are to be drawn and redrawn shall be enacted by ordinance of the City Council in accordance with Elections Code Section 23001

Aye: 7 - Member Cooley, Vice Chair Silva, Member Koltermann, Member Almazol, Chair Jain, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito

A motion was made by Member Cooley and seconded by Member Koltermann to use the independent redistricting model in compliance with the California Elections Code Section 23001.

Aye: 5 - Member Cooley, Member Koltermann, Chair Jain, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito

Nay: 1 - Vice Chair Silva

Abstained: 1 - Member Almazol

A motion was made by Member Koltermann and seconded by Member Almazol to recommend the following paragraph be included in a charter amendment:

Upon any redistricting pursuant to the provisions of this section of the Charter or the ordinances enacted hereunder, each incumbent member of the Council will continue, during the remainder of the member's term, to hold office and represent the district by which the member was elected prior to such redistricting, notwithstanding any provision of Section 600 requiring a member to be a resident of the district represented by such member.

Aye: 7 - Member Cooley, Vice Chair Silva, Member Koltermann, Member Almazol, Chair Jain, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito

City Attorney Doyle provided some closing remarks.

City Clerk Haggag provided some closing remarks.

Committee Members provided some closing remarks.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Cooley and seconded by Member Koltermann to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Aye: 7 - Member Cooley, Vice Chair Silva, Member Koltermann, Member Almazol, Chair Jain, Member Ricossa, and Member Bonito