

**Snohomish County  
Charter Review Commission**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Robert J. Drewel Building  
Jackson Board Room  
Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
7:00 p.m.  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Chair Gregerson  
Vice-Chair Terwilliger  
Vice-Chair Miller  
Commissioner Barton  
Commissioner Chase  
Commissioner Donner  
Commissioner Fior  
Commissioner Kelly  
Commissioner Koster  
Commissioner Liias  
Commissioner Matthews  
Commissioner O'Donnell  
Commissioner Roulstone  
Commissioner Stanford  
Commissioner Valentine  
Chris Roberts, Commission Analyst

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gregerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Chase arrived at 7:09 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Glenn Coil of Everett spoke on behalf of the Economic Alliance Snohomish County. He expressed support for the concept of a reconstituted advisory board or commission. He stated his opposition to placing the proposal in the Charter. He mentioned concerns about the unintended consequences of the proposal.

Commissioners asked about the membership of the Economic Alliance and the formation of public policy.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Vice Chair Terwilliger mentioned that he stated that the amendments to the districting proposal should require only a majority vote if required by state law.

**Commissioner Roulstone moved to approve the May 18 minutes with additional corrections. Commissioner Koster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Gregerson stated the items on the agenda tonight require 8 votes to draft ballot language. She stated that June 15, 2016 was slated as a public hearing of sorts and June 22 and 29 are meetings to develop the final package of amendments. She stated that Commissioners would not be in attendance on June 8, 15, and 22.

Commissioner Chase arrived at 7:09.

Vice Chair Terwilliger suggested the Commission could discuss some of the issues at the end of the meeting.

## BUSINESS ITEMS

### 1. EVALUATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR PAINE FIELD

Chair Gregerson stated that Paine Field is an important county asset and the purpose was to bring awareness to the entire county, to educate, and provide policy input. She expressed her excitement that Executive Somers was in support of an airport commission, but the council has not previously acted. She supported the creation of an appointed airport commission and give the council and executive to fine tune the proposal.

Commissioner Matthews described his history in aviation. He stated Paine Field is an incredible asset and it boggles his mind that the county can have a commission for the running of the Evergreen Fair but does not have one for Paine Field. He stated his support for the formulation of the airport commission created in the 1987 ordinances. He expressed opposition to using the term advisory and the Commission should give the executive the push to create the airport commission.

Commissioner Roulstone stated this is a complex and challenging endeavor and the executive and the economic development alliance urged caution. He stated the Commission has not been provided enough information to send to the voters and opposes placing this proposal in the Charter at this point.

Vice Chair Miller described his work building airplanes at Paine Field. He asked about the term "residential communities" in the draft language and expressed that that form of representation does not make sense.

Commissioner O'Donnell expressed that Paine Field is a well-run asset in the community.

Commissioner Valentine stated the facility belongs to the entire county. She stated there is nothing scary about an advisory committee and they proposal has been before the Commission for months and the idea was before the 2006 Charter Review Commission.

Commissioner Liias stated he was surprised how scary an advisory commission could be. He mentioned that the county gets public feedback on a variety of issues, but not on management of the airport. He expressed support for keeping the commission at a very high level that provides the public a voice.

Commissioner Koster stated that the real question is whether this commission should be placed in the Charter. He mentioned the executive and council can create the commission. He stated the council must occasionally act quickly on issues regarding the airport and the county could lose opportunities if every issue had to go to the airport commission. He expressed

that the public currently has input on airport affairs through the county council.

Commissioner Barton mentioned the only commissions in the Charter are those that pertain directly to governance. He stated there is a glaring need for the issue to be addressed, but should not be placed in the Charter.

Commissioner Valentine stated that public should get more involved in these issues, and the commission should legislate leadership or find some other way to get more public input.

Commissioner Donner stated he did not think the county needs a commission and let the council be.

Chair Gregerson stated that a commission could provide public policy guidance on proposals.

Commissioner Liias reminded commissioners that the role of the Commission is to recommend amendments the Charter and the voters will decide. He wondered why the executive has not spoken out against creating a human rights commission in the charter but has spoken out against increased public feedback for the airport. He stated that better outcomes occur when people comment early and often.

Vice Chair Terwilliger stated that the charter proposal should be in as broad of language as possible.

Commissioner Kelly expressed that this proposal should not be in the Charter. She stated that the Commission should be careful about which issues are placed in the Charter.

Commissioner Barton stated the language was best suited for an initiative, not a Charter amendment.

Commissioner Chase stated the commission should be in the Charter and placing the commission in the charter shows the importance of the issue.

**Commissioner Liias moved to direct staff to prepare an amendment substantively like option 2, with changes to the composition of the commission. Chair Gregerson seconded the motion. The motion passed 8 - 7. Chair Gregerson and Vice Chairs Miller and Commissioners Chase, Fior, Liias, Matthews, Stanford and Valentine. Vice Chair Terwilliger and Commissioners Barton, Donner, Kelly, Koster, O'Donnell, and Roulstone in opposition.**

## 2. COORDINATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Chair Gregerson summarized the proposal and mentioned that stand invited numerous agencies to participate.

Director of Human Services, Mary Jane Brell Vujovic spoke about the creation and work of the law and justice council to address issues at the intersection of public safety and human services. The council institutionalized changes in law enforcement practices, from embedding social workers with patrol officers, offering people medical detox and triage when people are brought in, and their status is reviewed at booking.

Director Brell Vujovic stated the county can do better at providing mental health services in jail facility. The work that you are seeking began and is continuing under the law and justice council. The question is whether an another body is needed?

Commissioner Fior asked about embedded social workers with patrol officers. The Director stated this is a pilot project.

Vice Chair Terwilliger asked about the funding of the embedded social workers and adding funding to the public defenders office.

Commissioner Valentine stated that there is great work going on in the county and asked about public safety being more than the criminal justice system and having human services department serve as an equal partner in budget discussions. Director Brell Vujovic stated that everyone wants to move away from crisis intervention to further upstream and holistic investments. She stated that the department is a joint partner in those efforts.

Commissioner Koster asked about the percentage of budget that is grant funding. Director Brell Vujovic stated that less than \$3 million of the budget comes from the general funding and it would be difficult to combine grant funds with other funds.

Commissioner Matthews asked whether the proposal would create another layer of bureaucracy. Director Brell Vujovic agreed.

Commissioner Liias stated that this process led to a productive dialogue. He stated there is value in placing aspirational language in the charter.

Commissioner Barton stated this is a solution looking for problems.

Commissioner Valentine asked Commissioners to recall the sheriff's presentation to the Commission where he described a problem. She stated that language goes from the commission stating that the county needs more mental health beds and more social workers.

Vice Chair Miller expressed support for the placing the proposal in the transmittal letter.

Commissioner Koster expressed appreciation for the comments around the table and stated there is lots of good work being done in the county.

**Commissioner Koster moved not move forward with charter amendment language and direct staff to put language in the transmittal letter to the council. Commissioner Valentine seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Chase stated there should be a statement in the Charter about our shared values.

Commissioner Liias explained there should be a letter to the 2026 Charter Review Commission about the issues this Commission faced.

Commissioner Valentine expressed agreement that there should be strategic discussion about a meeting after the November election.

**The motion passed 12-3. Chair Gregerson and Vice Chairs Miller and Terwilliger and Commissioners Barton, Donner, Kelly, Koster, Fior, Matthews, O'Donnell, Roulstone and Valentine in support. Commissioners Chase, Liias, and Stanford in opposition.**

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Gregerson mentioned the possibility of asking the attorney about which issues could be combined.

Vice Chair Terwilliger states he was not sure whether the Commission should move forward with the performance auditor proposal.

**Vice Chair Terwilliger moved to withdraw proposal 2016-15. Commissioner Roulstone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Liias would like the attorney to provide input on the possibility of combining proposals to confirmation of department heads and the submission of the executive's budget.

Commissioner Chase wondered about the possibility of combining the creation of the office of the public advocate and the human rights commission.

Commissioners discussed clarifications to the ballot title for the hearing examiner appeal proposal, suggesting "streamline the appeals process," to take out the "quasi judicial powers" language and mentioning the Superior Court in the title.

Chair Gregerson walked through the Commission's positions on districting and the council schedule proposals

Commissioner Liias asked if the qualifications of elected officials could be combined with gender neutral language. He stated that the proposal to modify the qualifications of elected officials is a lower priority than other proposals.

Commissioner Fior expressed support for striking the proposal about elected officials. She wondered how state law might trump the Charter's provision.

Vice Chair Terwilliger stated this proposal was a lower priority. He mentioned that it was not unreasonable for the county to set these qualifications.

**Vice Chair Terwilliger moved to withdraw proposal 2016-12/13, Qualifications for Elected Officials. Commissioner Roulstone seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Kelly stated this was a low priority. She expressed her support for modifying the age requirement and opposition to changing the residency requirement.

Commissioner Liias mentioned that this proposal was not a priority for the fall. However, he stated that this would be a good proposal to discuss placing on the 2017 ballot. He spoke in support of reducing the residency requirement.

Vice Chair Miller expressed his support of allowing eighteen year olds to run for office.

Commissioner Barton stated this should be deferred to the 2017 election. He suggested that the qualifications piece should be in accordance with state law.

Commissioner Kelly wondered what the Commission would do if voters defeated a proposal.

Commissioner Liias stated that the Commission should not send the exact same measure to the voters if one failed. He stated that the districting proposal and the prosecuting attorney proposal could be placed on the 2017 ballot since they would not go into effect in 2016.

Commissioner Kelly wondered if the Commission had decided to place measures on the 2016 and 2017 ballots.

Commissioner Chase stated that the Commission should not quite throw the proposition out.

Chair Gregerson expressed support for removing the proposal from the 2016 ballot but was not ready to remove it from the 2017 ballot.

**The motion passed 8-7. Vice Chair Terwilliger, and Commissioners Donner, Kelly, Koster, Matthews, O'Donnell, Roulstone, and Valentine in support. Chair Gregerson, Vice Chair Miller, and Commissioners Barton, Chase, Fior, Liias, and Stanford in opposition.**

Chair Gregerson stated the Commissioner's term runs through the end of December. Any action after August 6 would place a measure on the November 2017 ballot.

Commissioner O'Donnell stated that seven proposals are important to him and suggested the Commissioners go through a prioritization exercise.

**Commissioner Roulstone moved to postpone discussion on the districting commission until after August 6. Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion.**

Commissioner O'Donnell suggested the Commission continue to do the work like it will be on the November ballot.

Commissioner Liias expressed support for deliberating the lessons learned from the Commission after the November election.

Commissioner Barton stated this proposal was requested by the auditor and was a clean-up item.

Chair Gregerson stated the motion passed 8-7. Commissioners Kelly, Koster, Liias, Matthews, O'Donnell, Roulstone, Stanford, and Valentine in support. Chair Gregerson, and Vice Chairs Miller and Terwilliger and Commissioners Barton, Chase, Donner and Fior in opposition. Commissioners discussed the confusing nature of the motion and requested a revote on the motion.

**Chair Gregerson called for a revote on the motion to postpone discussion on the districting commission until after August 6 for the 2017 ballot. The motion failed 7-8. Commissioners Kelly, Koster, Liias, Matthews, Roulstone, Stanford and Valentine in support. Chair Gregerson, Vice Chairs Miller and Terwilliger, Commissioners Barton, Chase, Donner, Fior and O'Donnell in opposition.**

**Commissioner Valentine moved that the Commission meet after August 6 to consider to recommending items for the 2017 ballot and include a debrief after the November election. Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Vice Chair Terwilliger stated that when organizations have multiple issues, they use a dot exercise or other exercise. He suggested that proposals that receive 10 votes go automatically to the ballot, while the Commission discuss only those proposals that receive seven, eight, or nine votes.

Commissioner Liias would like to see all the proposals together and hold a public hearing before going through a decision-making process. He suggested each Commissioner should prioritize proposals.

Vice Chair Miller stated that a simple majority places a measure on the ballot. He stated that the public could handle six-seven proposals.

Commissioner Matthews stated that the Commission should take a cautious approach to the single-subject rule.

Commissioners discussed the role of the Commission's attorney about combining proposals.

Commissioners discussed whether the Commission decided on the number of propositions on the ballot.

Chair Gregerson expressed support for prioritization proposals in high/medium/low categories.

Commissioner O'Donnell encouraged Commissioner to go through a prioritization exercise and support for moving proposals to the 2017 ballot.

Commissioners discussed the prioritizing exercise and the open public meeting act.

Commissioner Roulstone stated the transmission letter should contain language certifying that the Charter is adequate.

Commissioners discussed the agenda for June 8 and June 15. Commissioners decided to hold a public hearing on the proposals on June 22.

**Commissioner Fior moved that all Commissioners rank all amendments by high, medium, or low by June 8 via email to Commission staff. Commissioner O'Donnell seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Roulstone stated that he wanted to see reviewed language first before going through a prioritization exercise.

Commissioners expressed discomfort with the proposal and whether the proposal works if the Commission is not unanimous in their support for the motion.

**Commissioner Fior withdrew the motion.**

ADJOURNMENT

**Vice Chair Miller moved to adjourn. Commissioner Valentine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Gregerson adjourned the meeting at 8:56 pm.