



City of Santa Rosa

City Charter Review Committee Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

5:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Cisco called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present 13 - Chair Patti Cisco, Committee Member Scott Bartley, Committee Member Christine Byrne, Committee Member Dan Condrón, Committee Member Ana Diaz, Committee Member Danny Martinez, Committee Member Chris Mazzia, Committee Member Ron Miller, Committee Member Evette Minor, Committee Member Ernesto Olivares, Committee Member Logan Pitts, Committee Member Mark Walsh, and Committee Member Karen Weeks

Absent 8 - Committee Member Adriana Arrizon, Committee Member Annie Barbour, Committee Member Lisa Badenfort, Committee Member Abigail Cunningham, Committee Member Jazmin Gudino, Committee Member Jen Klose, Committee Member Brian Ling, and Committee Member Jocelyn Villalobos

Committee Member Ling joined the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Committee Member Arrizon joined the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Committee Member Klose joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

No public comments were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE.

4. SCHEDULED ITEMS

4.1 EQUITY PRINCIPLES

The principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging remain in the forefront of the Charter review process. This standing agenda item provides the Committee with the opportunity, at the outset of each of its meetings, to refine, reaffirm and recommit to its Statement of Principles. The Statement of Principles regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging provides a procedural and substantive lens through which the Committee undertakes all of its work.

No presentation or discussion was made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

West Below spoke on the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution and on Article 1, Sections 7 and 31 of the California Constitution, his concern with the map showing Santa Rosa Districts that are given equity priority over others, and the equity principles being a flagrant disregard to the constitution.

- Present**18 - Chair Patti Cisco, Committee Member Adriana Arrizon, Committee Member Lisa Badenfort, Committee Member Scott Bartley, Committee Member Christine Byrne, Committee Member Dan Condon, Committee Member Ana Diaz, Committee Member Jazmin Gudino, Committee Member Jen Klose , Committee Member Brian Ling, Committee Member Danny Martinez, Committee Member Chris Mazzia, Committee Member Ron Miller, Committee Member Evette Minor, Committee Member Ernesto Olivares, Committee Member Logan Pitts, Committee Member Mark Walsh, and Committee Member Karen Weeks
- Absent** 3 - Committee Member Annie Barbour, Committee Member Abigail Cunningham, and Committee Member Jocelyn Villalobos

4.2 VOTING RIGHTS FOR NON-CITIZENS

The Charter Review Committee has requested, as a high priority, the opportunity to consider a possible Charter amendment to allow non-citizens to vote in local City elections. This agenda item will provide the Committee with general background on voting rights for non-citizens, arguments for and against granting such rights, and the logistics of implementation. The Committee may provide direction to staff on recommended next steps.

City Attorney Sue Gallagher presented information and introduced Deva Proto, Sonoma County Registrar of Voters, who presented information on non-citizen voting rights and answered questions from the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Leadem spoke asking the Committee to check with leaders

of the non-citizen communities to see if the right to vote is a desired value for them before the Committee embarks on the issue.

Committee discussion ensued on the need to do more research on the topic, for Council to decide if this is an issue to explore, whether to make voting available only for permanent non-citizen residents who are authorized to work, concerns on the cost to implement, concerns voting registration is a public record with members of the community possibly being exposed to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials (ICE), to let non-citizens decide if they want to take the risk of exposure, weighing the cost to implement should not be considered when giving the under served community a voice, asking the Council to form a subcommittee to explore the issue, and making a very specific recommendation to Council on a specific timeline to implement.

A motion was made by Committee Member Pitts, seconded by Committee member Martinez, to recommend Council examine non-citizen voting as part of the Charter Review process by conducting a study session, consider costs, define groups, verification process to identify voter registration as a non-citizen, explore how it has been implemented in other cities, and various other information deemed necessary related to this topic.

Committee Member Minor made a friendly amendment to place this on the ballot at a future time, for Council to explore the best process either through a study session, subcommittee or listening session, to look at data on how many residents will be able to vote in the next few years, to explore how other cities have implemented non-citizen voting, costs, and clarification and definition on the meaning of non-residents.

The friendly amendment was not accepted.

A motion was made by Committee Member Klose, seconded by Committee Member Gudino, to recommend to Council to undertake whatever process they deem necessary to place non-citizen voting on a ballot on or before 2026 and for cost consideration not to be a factor in the decision making process.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Committee Member Arrizon, Committee Member Byrne, Committee Member Diaz, Committee Member Gudino, Committee Member Klose, Committee Member Martinez, Committee Member Miller, Committee Member Minor and Committee Member Walsh

No: 9 - Chair Cisco, Committee Member Badenfort, Committee Member Bartley, Committee Member Condrón, Committee Member Ling, Committee Member Mazzia, Committee Member Olivares, Committee Member Pitts and Committee Member Weeks

Absent: 3 - Committee Member Barbour, Committee Member Cunningham and Committee Member Villalobos

A motion was made by Committee Member Pitts, seconded by Committee Member Martinez, to recommend Council examine non-citizen voting as part of the Charter Review process by conducting a study session to consider costs, define the meaning of non-citizen groups, verification process to identify voter registration as a non-citizen, explore how it has been implemented in other cities, and various other information deemed necessary related to this topic.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Chair Cisco, Committee Member Arrizon, Committee Member Badenfort, Committee Member Bartley, Committee Member Byrne, Committee Member Condrón, Committee Member Diaz, Committee Member Gudino, Committee Member Klose, Committee Member Ling, Committee Member Martinez, Committee Member Mazzia, Committee Member Miller, Committee Member Minor, Committee Member Olivares, Committee Member Pitts, Committee Member Walsh and Committee Member Weeks

Absent: 3 - Committee Member Barbour, Committee Member Cunningham and Committee Member Villalobos

4.3 COUNCIL COMPENSATION

The City Council has recommended that, among other topics, the Committee research and consider preparing a Charter amendment to increase Council member compensation. Currently, the Charter allows for the establishment of Council compensation in accordance

with formulas set forth in state law. For a city the size of Santa Rosa, state law allows for Council member salary of up to \$800 per month. State law also allows for an annual increase in that salary of up to 5% (not compounded), which increase may accumulate if not immediately applied. In addition, State law allows the city's voters to approve a higher or alternative salary. The voters of Santa Rosa have approved a higher salary for the Mayor, currently equal to \$1200 per month (150% of Council member salary).

The Committee began its discussion of Council compensation at its December 15, 2021 meeting and expanded its discussion at its meeting on January 5, 2022. This agenda item will provide the Committee with the opportunity to provide final direction on its recommendation for Council compensation.

This item was continued to the April 27, 2022, meeting.

5. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S/CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

No reports were made.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE.

7. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS - NONE.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Council Compensation

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cisco adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Approved on:

Stephanie A. Williams
City Clerk