

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE CHARTER REVIEW  
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

**Subcommittee Members**

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo  
Jennifer Gilbert  
Kai Long  
Lisa Peterson  
Susan Shell  
Jim Stockard  
Kathleen Born, Chair

The Cambridge Charter Review Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:00a.m. by the Chair of the Committee, Kathleen Born. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2022 adopted by Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, this meeting was remote via zoom.

**At the request of the Chair, Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Absent \*  
Jennifer Gilbert – Present  
Kai Long – Present  
Lisa Peterson – Present  
Susan Shell – Present  
Jim Stockard – Present  
Kathleen Born – Present

**Present – 6, Absent – 1. Quorum established.**

**\*Jessica DeJesus Acevedo was marked present at 11:30a.m.**

Also present at the meeting were Elliot Veloso, Assistant City Solicitor for the Law Department, and Elizabeth Corbo, Human Resource Auditor an Employment Operations Analyst for the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management.

Anna Corning gave opening remarks about what the purpose of the Subcommittee should be. That members in the subcommittee should be working towards creating an overall road map for the committee and a list of what topics the Committee might cover.

Member Lisa Peterson commented that it's important to think about the timeline and trying to create both the committee and subcommittee, so topics are discussed in a time appropriate manner.

Member Susan Shell shared concerns about the process of creating a new Plan E, and if the public would agree on topics discussed in meetings. They noted that the possibility of doing a survey to get feedback could help with these challenges.

Anna Corning noted that we could rely on Community groups to help document the broader themes to help the public figure out what is or is not working.

Elizabeth Corbo noted that the subcommittee will impact all the decisions that the Charter Review will ultimately make. They stressed that the Charter Review Committee is the representative government committee, the voice. Members should feel comfortable in what they are doing.

Kai Long noted that with government you want the thought process to be more thoughtful. Shared concerns about how the Committee can start this process with out the input of residents. They spoke against surveys and suggested the Committee find a better way to reach out to residents.

Member Jim Stockard commented on the power and assignment given to the Charter Review Committee and reiterated the importance of reaching out to residents in a form that is not a survey.

Elizabeth Corbo stressed concerns that the Charter Review Committee members may not understand the importance of their role as members.

Members went into discussion about questions and concerns they have about what is working and what is not working in Cambridge and noting they need time to be able to discuss the pros and cons, getting familiar with strong Mayor/strong Manager, talk about concerns, and encouraging conversation. Members noted the importance of focusing on Cambridge government more and to not be so abstract by looking at other cities and towns. Other concerns that were brought forward was a timeline and if the Charter Review would have enough time to accomplish their goals.

Elliot Veloso reviewed the timeline that was given to Chair Born from the Law Department and reiterated some of the language that is written in the Council Order and Charter language, and that there is a possibility for extension.

Anna Corning suggested putting together an interview structure to interview past and current employees to get feedback and noted she had sent out a list to members already.

Member Susan Shell suggested getting material ahead of time to make the time they have for these meetings more useful.

Member Jennifer Gilbert had questions and comments about the list of interviewees and encouraged that the Committee add as many voices as possible.

Member Jim Stockard noted that all residents should be represented fairly.

The Chair, Kathleen Born noted the importance of getting started so the Committee can get to the conversation that needs to happen to reach goals and questioned how often it would be useful for the subcommittee to continue meeting.

Members Susan Shell, Jessica DeJesus Acevedo, and Kai Long had suggestions, questions, and recommendations on how the Committee can go forward with interviewing people. Jessica DeJesus Acevedo stressed the importance of engaging with the community.

Anna Corning thanked members for giving their time for the meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:04a.m.**

**Clerk's Note:** The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

[Dec 13, 2022 5:30 PM - Charter Review Committee - Committee Meeting \(granicus.com\)](#)