

MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE CHARTER REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Friday, January 27, 2023

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 Friday, January 27, 2023. 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 – Present
Jennifer Gilbert – Present
Kai Long – Present
Lisa Peterson – Absent
Susan Shell – Present
Jim Stockard – Present
Kathleen Born – Present

Present – 6, Absent – 1. Quorum established.

Anna Corning began by noting that the meeting would be focusing on the Committee Work Plan and other major topics. She also reviewed the public forum at the Main Library that was held on January 24, 2023, and the turnout of residents.

Member Jennifer Gilbert had a clarifying question about the public forum and if the guests in attendance were people that were familiar with the Charter Review Committee or if people who were in attendance came to get information on the Charter Review. Anna Corning noted that about fifty percent of people were there to learn more about what the Charter Review Committee represented.

Member Jim Stockard shared that there should be more outreach for lower income residents, so they are aware of the Committee and to get more community awareness.

The Chair, Kathleen Born offered suggestions on locations on where the Committee could do more outreach, noting that the youth centers could be appealing to some residents.

Member Susan Shell suggested more transparency on the City website could be beneficial.

Member Kai Long shared that the meeting was very informative, and suggested meetings going forward be more targeted on specific matters.

Member Jessica DeJesus Acevedo shared members from the community asked for more clarity on what the Charter is, and echoed comments made by Kai Long. They stressed the importance of reaching out to minorities and using City spaces that are comfortable for all demographics in the City.

Anna Corning agreed that the Committee does need to reach out to more to the community and offered the idea of informational mail using postcards that could have links, translated informational versions online, and direct residents to more information that is posted on the website.

Member Kai Long shared that the Committee should use more than words when reaching out to different demographics, using tools that are more accessible to those who need it. Break down the communication so it is accessible to a variety of people with different education levels.

Anna Corning stressed the importance of feedback from Committee members when it comes to doing community outreach.

Member Jennifer Gilbert agreed with having more education for the community and with comments made by Kai Long with using different tools to reach out to the different demographics of people.

Member Jim Stockard noted it would be important to have examples and scenario-based questions when speaking to the community about the Charter when it comes to Strong Mayor/Strong Manager and other forms of government. He also suggested reaching out to older students at CRLS who could relay Charter information to family members at home.

Member Jessica DeJesus Acevedo offered ways the Committee could reach out to the school community.

Anna Corning noted that there is a meeting with the City Council in March where Committee members can come and talk with Council members and potentially request an extension.

Member Jennifer Gilbert offered ideas on outreach, suggesting using social media videos and possibly having a contest to help promote information, a way to create content that is about the Charter.

Anna Corning shared she could try and make a connection with staff at CRLS to brainstorm ways to get information out through students.

Member Kai Long stressed the importance of moving forward and asking big questions, answering them, and getting to decisions.

Member Jim Stockard suggested leaning more towards going out to other groups and committees in the City to get information out there to community members who may be hesitant to join forums and meetings that the Charter Review Committee hold.

Anna Corning noted that things are moving forward, and she has seen some feedback and communication from members from the CEOC and Ward 9.

Member Susan Shell shared that the more informed people are, the more informed opinion and point of view they will share.

Member Jessica DeJesus Acevedo offered the idea of having a tentative schedule about when things should be done by to help keep Committee members focused and on track.

Anna Corning stressed the importance of having a work plan going forward to have targeted conversations and shared that a workplan is something she can draft up to bring forward to the full committee.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jessica DeJesus Acevedo who made a motion to create a draft of a work plan to guide Committee members going forward and to propose the workplan to the full Charter Review Committee. The motion was seconded by member Jim Stockard.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jessica DeJesus Acevedo who made a motion that was seconded by member Jim Stockard to create a draft of a workplan to guide Committee members going forward and propose the workplan to the full Charter Review Committee.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – Yes

Lisa Peterson – Absent

Susan Shell – Yes

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 6, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05p.m.

The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/429?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=87892f06d2f559fd22f927d34862856b