

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kathleen Born, Chair
Kaleb Abebe
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo
Mosammat Faria Afreen
Nikolas Bowie
Kevin Chen
Max Clermont
Jennifer Gilbert
Kai Long
Patrick Magee
Mina Makarios
Lisa Peterson
Ellen Shachter
Susan Shell
Jim Stockard

The Cambridge Charter Review Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30p.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.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Present
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Present
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Present
Nikolas Bowie – Present
Kevin Chen – Present
Max Clermont – Present
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent
Kai Long – Present
Patrick Magee – Present
Mina Makarios – Present
Lisa Peterson – Present
Ellen Shachter – Present
Susan Shell – Present
Jim Stockard – Present
Kathleen Born – Present
Present – 14, Absent – 1. Quorum established.

The Chair, Kathleen Born opened the meeting with the Adoption of the Minutes from the January 31, 2023 Charter Review Committee meeting. Member Jim Stockard made a motion to adopt the minutes, and the motion was seconded by member Ellen Shachter. Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

**Kaleb Abebe – Yes
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes
Nikolas Bowier – Yes
Kevin Chen – Yes
Max Clermont – Yes
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent
Kai Long – Yes
Patrick Magee – Yes
Mina Makarious – Yes
Lisa Peterson – Yes
Ellen Shachter – Yes
Susan Shell – Yes
Jim Stockard – Yes
Kathleen Born – Yes
Yes – 14, No- 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.**

The Chair, Kathleen Born noted that there were four written communications that were received from the public (Attachments A-D) and recognized member Ellen Shachter who made a motion to adopt the written communications and place them on file. The motion was seconded by member Kaleb Abebe.

**Kaleb Abebe – Yes
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes
Nikolas Bowier – Yes
Kevin Chen – Yes
Max Clermont – Yes
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent
Kai Long – Yes
Patrick Magee – Yes
Mina Makarious – Yes
Lisa Peterson – Yes
Ellen Shachter – Yes
Susan Shell – Yes
Jim Stockard – Yes
Kathleen Born – Yes
Yes – 14, No- 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.**

The Chair, Kathleen Born opened Public Comment.

Lee Farris shared that it would be nice as a user or resident that when the newsletter goes out there would be a link that would go straight to the documents that are being described in the newsletter, it would make it easier for the reader.

Patrick Hayes shared that he and Committee members went to a Harvard Square Business Association meeting recently to spread the word about the Charter Review Committee.

Member Jim Stockard shared discussions he has had with community members, some of whom voiced their concerns and noted that they were not in favor of having the option to allow older youth to vote.

Anna Corning asked for feedback on the draft proposed timeline (Attachment E) that was sent to Committee Members and shared that she would like to have it completed before the Special Meeting with the City Council on March 22, 2023. She noted that the proposed timeline is a way to set goals and have topics for future meetings.

Member Ellen Shachter had a clarifying question on the timeline around the drafting of language for the Charter. Anna Corning was able to provide more detail and feedback on what the proposed drafting language should look like as the Charter Review Committee continues to move forward.

Member Kevin Chen had a clarifying question regarding the proposed timeline would work around community engagement. Anna Corning shared that the way the Charter Review has been engaging is a good way to continue, but members should think about offering public forums or workshops that are more structured around specific topics.

Member Mina Makarious suggested that as the Charter Review moves forward with drafting new charter language, it may be beneficial for the City Solicitor's Office to review all of the proposed language.

Member Jim Stockard asked for clarity on when the Charter Review Committee should be requesting an extension from the City Council. Anna Corning noted that it's mostly up to the Committee if they want to continue to volunteer meeting and noted that it would be up to the members of the Charter Review Committee to determine a proposed timeline to bring to the City Council when asking for an extension. Anna Corning suggested that members should think about if they are comfortable extending the timeline and could ask for the extension at the Special City Council meeting in March.

Member Ellen Shachter suggested that the Charter Review Committee members use specific questions to bring to the community groups to target what the Charter Review is asking for feedback on.

Michael Ward from the Collins Center introduced the panelists that were invited to join the Charter Review Committee meeting. They included Alex Morse, current Manager of Provincetown and former Mayor of Holyoke, Joe Curtatone, former Mayor and Alderman of Somerville, and Eileen Donoghue, former Manager and Mayor of Lowell and former State

Senator. Panelists made themselves available to answer questions and concerns of Charter Review Committee members.

For the remainder of the meeting, Charter Review Committee members and the panelists went into discussion about strong mayor versus strong manager, with panelists offering their personal experiences in those roles. Charter Review members engaged with the panelists and spoke on topics that included risks and responsibilities that come with mayor and manager, the role of city councils in the two different forms of government, accountability, the leadership part of the position and the type of visibility that comes with it, community engagement and goals, limitations with community engagement specific to the type of role, the disconnect with diverse citizens and accessibility to information, lining the community needs with the budget, the budget process including more engagement from the Council or the community, and racial and social representation within government,

The Chair, Kathleen Born thanked the three panelists for attending the meeting and shared she was excited about the conversations that took place.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30p.m.

The Charter Review Committee received four written communications from the public, Attachments A-D.

Attachment E – Draft proposal timeline

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

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/456?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=ff06191c9981904379b832d74b03383a