

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 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, September 5, 2023. The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30p.m. by the Chair of the Committee, Kathleen Born. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, this meeting was remote via Zoom.

**At the request of the Chair, 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 recognized member Lisa Peterson who made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from August 1, 2023.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

**Kaleb Abebe – Yes**

**Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes**

**Mosammart Faria Afreen – Yes**

**Nikolas Bowie – 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 recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion to adopt communications from Committee members and communications from the public.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

**Kaleb Abebe – Yes**

**Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes**

**Mosammart Faria Afreen – Yes**

**Nikolas Bowie – 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 introduced Anna Corning, Project Manager, who opened Public Comment.**

Robert Winters offered comments on an article included in the Council Agenda titled “Beyond the Spoiler Effect”.

Julia Shephard offered comments on rank choice voting and the different methods within rank choice voting.

Anna Corning opened the discussion to Committee members on reviewing resident participation mechanisms. The four mechanisms include free petition, initiative, referendum, and recall. Anna Corning noted that the team from the Collins Center, Michael Ward and Patricia Lloyd, shared a memo with the Committee titled “Discussion of Citizen Relief Mechanisms” which was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet.

Anna Corning recognized member Jim Stockard who asked the Collins Center representatives for clarification on language that was in Section I. Mass General Laws, referring to the City no longer being a Plan E city, which was in the memo provided by the Collins Center to the Charter Review. The Memo, Discussion of Citizen Relief Mechanisms, was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. Michael Ward responded and was able to provide more information.

Anna Corning recognized Marilyn Contrevas from the Collins Center, Patricia Lloyd and Michael Ward, who gave an overview of their memo on Citizen Relief Mechanisms. Committee Members were recognized for comments and suggestions and the team from the Collins Center were available to respond and clarify any questions that came forward.

Anna Corning shared that she would like to take a straw poll on the resident participation mechanisms to see which topics Committee members would be interested in discussing further and including them in the City Charter.

Free Petitions were voted in favor unanimously by the fifteen Committee members that were present. Citizen Initiatives had twelve members voting in favor. Referendum had six members voting in favor, and Recall had four members voting in favor. Anna Corning noted that these were not official votes and that this was just a tool to help the Committee continue to move forward with discussions.

Anna Corning gave an overview of a memo that was submitted from the Collins Center regarding Tracking of Council Measures. The memo was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. Anna Corning opened the discussion to Committee members. Many Committee members shared they were in favor of the language that was provided in the memo. Additionally, Committee members offered suggestions on how they believe the language could improve.

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion to adopt Public Tracking Mechanism of Council Policy Orders and other measures, as amended in Committee (Attachment A).**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

**Kaleb Abebe – Yes**

**Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes**

**Mosammart Faria Afreen – Yes**

**Nikolas Bowie – Yes**

**Kevin Chen – Yes**

**Max Clermont – Yes**

**Jennifer Gilbert – Absent**

**Kai Long – Yes**  
**Patrick Magee – Yes**  
**Mina Makarios – Yes**  
**Lisa Peterson – Yes**  
**Ellen Shachter – Yes**  
**Susan Shell – Yes**  
**Jim Stockard – Yes**  
**Kathleen Born – Yes**  
**Yes – 14, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.**

Anna Corning reviewed the proposed drafted language for City Council Goal Setting, Budget priorities provisions, and the City Manager annual review provision. The team from the Collins Center, as well as Anna Corning, were available to respond to Committee members. Anna Corning shared that past suggestions that have been brought forward by Committee members have been added into the proposed draft language. Committee members offered additional suggestions on the proposed language and raised questions where they saw concerns in the draft language.

**The Charter Review Committee adjourned at approximately 7:30p.m.**

**Attachment A - Public Tracking Mechanism of Council Policy Orders and other measures, as amended in Committee.**

**Clerk’s Note:** The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

[https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/565?view\\_id=1&redirect=true&h=37862a31da1059964dd49e7d37d543b7](https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/565?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=37862a31da1059964dd49e7d37d543b7)