

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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 26, 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 – Absent  
Max Clermont – Present  
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
Kai Long – Present  
Patrick Magee – Absent\*  
Mina Makarios – Absent\*  
Lisa Peterson – Present  
Ellen Shachter – Present  
Susan Shell – Present  
Jim Stockard – Present  
Kathleen Born – Present

**Present – 11, Absent – 4. Quorum established.**

\*Member Patrick Magee was marked present at 5:35p.m.

\* Member Mina Makarios was marked present at 6:15p.m.

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Susan Shell who made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from September 5, 2023.**

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

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mossamat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Yes

Jennifer Gilbert – Absent

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarios – Absent

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – Yes

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 12, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Ellen Shachter who made a motion to adopt communications from Committee members and the public.**

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

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mossamat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Yes

Jennifer Gilbert – Absent

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarios – Absent

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – Yes

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 12, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born opened Public Comment.**

Jameson Quinn shared their excitement for the upcoming discussion on voting mechanisms.

John Hawkinson offered comments on fractional transfer and voting mechanisms.

Anna Corning, Project Manager shared that the focus of the discussion for the meeting was going to be on the proposed language for resident assemblies. Anna Corning recognized Committee members to offer comments and suggestions related to resident assemblies.

Anna Corning shared on the screen language from member Nikolas Bowie regarding resident assemblies. Member Bowie noted that this language, which was provided as a communication in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet, was created to help guide members to create draft language that everyone agrees on relative to resident assemblies. Committee members offered their concerns and comments on the proposed language and provided suggestions on how they believe the proposed language would best serve the City. Member Bowie was available to respond to questions and concerns brought forward by fellow Committee members. Michael Ward from the Collins Center shared that the language that has been provided is good and he believes the Committee is on track to make progress and positive change. Anna Corning added the suggested changes to the working document on the screen as Committee members made them during the discussion (Attachment A).

Anna Corning shared that she would like to change the focus of the meeting discussion to elections. She made note of the suggested changes towards elections that have been brought up in previous meetings, which included granting 16 and 17 years old as well as non-citizens the ability to vote in municipal elections and changing the municipal election year to line up with State and Presidential elections. Anna Corning recognized Committee members to provide additional topics they would like to discuss relative to elections at the next meeting.

Michael Ward reminded Committee members that the Secretary of States Office is usually opposed to municipalities moving to an even numbered year for elections and provided the reasoning as to why they are opposed, but encouraged the Committee to continue to try and move forward with the changes they best see fit. Member Stockard shared that it is important for Committee members to continue with the idea of even numbers to encourage residents to come out and vote and double the number of people who are showing up for municipal elections.

Member Mina Makarious shared that they believe it is important for the Committee to discuss how they would like the City Council to present the new Charter language to the Legislature. They noted that they believe the Legislature should not have the ability to take language out of the proposed Charter.

Member Nikolas Bowie shared that at a future meeting they would like to discuss campaign finance and noted how Cambridge currently has zero authority over elections under the State Constitution and would like to push for the City to have some authority of campaign finance laws. Member Bowie also shared that they would like to discuss the methods of proportional representation.

Member Patrick Magee shared concerns about making too many changes to elections which could potentially complicate the language moving forward in the State Legislature's Office. Member Magee did share he was in favor of 16 and 17 year olds and non-citizens having the ability to vote.

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

**Attachment A** – Working document on proposed draft language for resident assembly.

**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/581?view\\_id=1&redirect=true&h=d86657c5ed3d9c6c397a499c3f345cf4](https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/581?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=d86657c5ed3d9c6c397a499c3f345cf4)