

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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, October 10, 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 – Absent*
Kevin Chen – Absent
Max Clermont – Absent
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent*
Kai Long – Present
Patrick Magee – Present
Mina Makarios – Absent*
Lisa Peterson – Present
Ellen Shachter – Present
Susan Shell – Present
Jim Stockard – Present
Kathleen Born – Present

Present – 10, Absent – 5. Quorum established.

*Member Nikolas Bowie was marked present at 5:36p.m.
*Member Jennifer Gilbert was marked present at 5:39p.m.
*Member Mina Makarios was marked present at 6:36p.m.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Susan Shell who made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from September 12, 2023 and September 26, 2023.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Absent

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarious – Absent

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – Yes

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 11, No – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.

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

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarious – 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 that they strongly urge the Committee to consider the possibility of equal voting.

Anna Corning, Project Manager, opened the discussion to Committee members on the Resident Assembly Draft Decision Points. The Resident Assembly Draft Decision Points document, as well as the Resident Assembly draft language, were provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Patrick Magee who made a motion for the Committee to establish a Resident Assembly in the Charter.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

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 Jim Stockard who made a motion to approve the Purpose section (section 1) language of the Resident Assembly draft to read: In order to expand access to City government generally and include voices not typically heard in decision making, the City Council has the authority to establish and maintain one or more Resident Assemblies.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – No

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarios – Absent

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – No

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 10, No – 2, Absent – 3. Motion passed.

Anna Corning shared that she would like to take a straw poll on whether the Committee would like to establish whether the resident assembly would proceed as an advisory body or have decision making power. There were nine members who voted in favor of the decision making power, three members in favor of an advisory body, one member who was marked as present, and two members that were absent.

Anna Corning recognized Committee members for comments regarding if they want to add requirements for City Council action with certain thresholds of resident assembly approval. Committee members shared their thoughts and concerns relative to including that language in the Charter. Michael Ward from the Collins Center was available to provide feedback on comments that were made by Committee members and noted that there is value to including specific language in the Charter. After discussion it was decided to not vote on this current topic and to continue to move forward to the next topic.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Ellen Shachter who made a motion for the City Council to establish one Resident Assembly per City Council term and to be added to the Mandatory Specifications Section (section 3) of the draft language.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – No

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

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 – 12, No – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

Anna Corning opened discussion to Committee members to continue the conversation related to the Powers section of the draft language of Resident Assembly. Committee members were invited to share their comments and suggestions on how they would like to move forward with the proposed language. Anna Corning and the team from the Collins Center were available to provide responses to any questions or concerns. Member Nikolas Bowie was also available to review and provide more detail on the proposed language that they submitted to be included in the draft language ahead of the meeting.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Susan Shell who made a motion to adopt the Power Section (section 2), section a.i. of the draft Resident Assembly, Section 2.a.i, to read: The power to issue recommendations on questions posed by the city council and to specify

deadlines by which the city council or city manager must publicly respond to the recommendations by hearing or other means.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – No
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – No
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes
Nikolas Bowie – Yes
Kevin Chen – Absent
Max Clermont – Absent
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes
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 – 11, No – 2, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Nikolas Bowie who made a motion to allow the City Council to delegate its statutory powers to a resident assembly.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – No
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – No
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes
Nikolas Bowie – Yes
Kevin Chen – Absent
Max Clermont – Absent
Jennifer Gilbert – No
Kai Long – No
Patrick Magee – No
Mina Makarios – No
Lisa Peterson – No
Ellen Shachter – No
Susan Shell – No
Jim Stockard – No
Kathleen Born – No

Yes – 2, No – 11, Absent – 2. Motion failed.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Lisa Peterson who made a motion to allow the City Council to give power to a Resident Assembly that they can consider whether an initiative petition that met a certain threshold set by the City Council should go to the City Council for approval or go to the voters for approval.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – No

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes
Nikolas Bowie – Yes
Kevin Chen – Absent
Max Clermont – Absent
Jennifer Gilbert – No
Kai Long – Yes
Patrick Magee – No
Mina Makarios – No
Lisa Peterson – Yes
Ellen Shachter – Yes
Susan Shell – No
Jim Stockard – Yes
Kathleen Born – Yes
Yes – 8, No – 5, Absent 2. Motion passed.

Anna Corning recognized Elliott Veloso, First Assistant City Solicitor from the Law Department who shared concerns relative sections 2.a.iii and 2.a.iv, noting that there could be a conflict of laws with the proposed language due to State Law and reminded members that State Law supersedes Municipal Law. Elliot Veloso was available to respond to clarifying questions from Committee members.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion to adopt Section 2.i.2.a.ii of the proposed draft language of Resident Assembly to read: The power to issue endorsements or counter-endorsements for initiatives submitted to the City Council or voters, including initiatives that satisfy Section _'s procedural requirements. Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

**Kaleb Abebe – Yes
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes
Nikolas Bowie – Yes
Kevin Chen – Absent
Max Clermont – Absent
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes
Kai Long – Yes
Patrick Magee – Yes
Mina Makarios – No
Lisa Peterson – Yes
Ellen Shachter – Yes
Susan Shell – No
Jim Stockard – Yes
Kathleen Born – Yes
Yes – 11, No – 2, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Susan Shell who made a motion to adopt Section 2.ii.2.a.iii of the proposed draft language of Resident Assembly to read: Powers that

would otherwise be exercised under state or municipal law by a city board or commission, including the Planning Board.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – No

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – No

Kai Long – Present

Patrick Magee – No

Mina Makarious – No

Lisa Peterson – No

Ellen Shachter – No

Susan Shell – No

Jim Stockard – No

Kathleen Born – No

Yes – 3, No – 9, Present – 1, Absent – 2. Motion failed.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion to adopt Section 2.iii.2.a.iv of the proposed draft language of Resident Assembly to read: The power to dispense with requirements under state or municipal law for public hearings and public comment, provided that the Resident Assembly’s procedures comply with federal and state constitutional requirements of due process.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – No

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – No

Kai Long – Absent

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarious – No

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – No

Susan Shell – No

Jim Stockard – No

Kathleen Born – No

Yes – 5, No – 9, Absent 3. Motion failed.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stocked who made a motion to adopt Section 2.iv.2.a.v of the proposed draft language of Resident Assembly to read: The power,

on its own initiative, to make recommendations or propose draft legislation for review by the City Council or voters.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – Absent

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarious – Yes

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – No

Jim Stockard – yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 11, No – 1, Absent – 3. Motion passed.

Anna Corning thanked Committee members for their time and reviewed what would be discussed at the next meeting.

The Charter Review Committee adjourned at approximately 7:40p.m.

Attachments:

Attachment A – clean version of Resident Assembly draft language.

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:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/589?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=0219e4be40d17cd83ad2f4c9f905c572