

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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, November 14, 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 – Absent
Nikolas Bowie – Absent
Kevin Chen – Absent
Max Clermont – Absent
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent*
Kai Long – Present
Patrick Magee – Present
Mina Makarios – Present
Lisa Peterson – Present
Ellen Shachter – Absent
Susan Shell – Absent
Jim Stockard – Present
Kathleen Born – Present
Present – 9, Absent – 6. Quorum established.

***Member Jennifer Gilbert was marked present at 6:09p.m.**

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kevin Chen who made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from November 7, 2023.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Absent

Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Yes

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Absent

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarios – Yes

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Absent

Susan Shell – Absent

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 9, No – 0, Absent – 6. Motion passed.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion to adopt the communication from City Councillor Quinton Zondervan.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Absent

Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Yes

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Absent

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarios – Yes

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Absent

Susan Shell – Absent

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 9, No – 0, Absent – 6. Motion passed.

Anna Corning shared that the meeting goal was to try and focus on foundational decision points around form of government. Committee members were recognized to share their thoughts and comments about the decision to move forward with a Strong Mayor form of government.

Anna Corning recognized Michael Ward from the Collins Center to review the Forms of Government with Example Options for Modifications Chart (Attached). Michael Ward noted that

the Chart was shared at previous meetings, but the focus would now be to discuss the examples provided of a Strong Mayor form of government. Anna Corning recognized Committee members for comments and questions relative to the chart and Michael Ward was available to provide feedback. Member Lisa Peterson noted the importance of using the next four meetings to work as effectively as possible by working together to create language for a Strong Mayor form of government that will best fit Cambridge.

Anna Corning shared with the Committee that she would like to move the discussion to focus on term lengths for Mayor. Anna Corning recognized Committee members who offered their suggestions on term limits and what language they would be in favor of using in the proposed draft language. Committee members who were recognized offered comments that were in support of term limits for Mayor.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion for the Mayor to have a four-year term length.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Absent

Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Yes

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarious – Yes

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Absent

Susan Shell – Absent

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 10, No – 0, Absent – 5. Motion passed.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion for the Mayor to serve a maximum of three, four- year term limits, which do not have to be consecutive.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Absent

Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Yes

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – No

Mina Makarios – Yes
Lisa Peterson – Yes
Ellen Shachter – Absent
Susan Shell – Absent
Jim Stockard – Yes
Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 9, No – 1, Absent – 5. Motion passed.

Committee members offered additional comments on the Strong Mayor form of government relative to Department Heads and the School Committee. Committee members discussed and offered suggestions on the position of CAFO (Chief Administrative and Financial Officer) under a Strong Mayor. Anna Corning, Michael Ward, and Patricia Lloyd were available to provide answers to clarifying questions that were brought forward as well as feedback to suggestions made by members.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Lisa Peterson who made a motion to require a CAFO, who is appointed by the Mayor, in the Charter.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

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

Yes – 10, No – 0, Absent – 5. Motion passed.

Anna Corning recognized members of the Committee to offer additional remarks relative to having a CAFO. Committee members shared possible challenges that may arise with City Council involvement with regards to the CAFO and provided suggestions on the City Council being able to veto the CAFO.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kevin Chen who made a motion that the City Council can veto the CAFO appointment by the Mayor with a super majority vote.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Absent

Nikolas Bowie – Absent
Kevin Chen – Yes
Max Clermont – Absent
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes
Kai Long – Yes
Patrick Magee – Yes
Mina Makarious – Yes
Lisa Peterson – Yes
Ellen Shachter – Absent
Susan Shell – Absent
Jim Stockard – Yes
Kathleen Born – Yes

Yes – 10, No – 0, Absent – 5. Motion passed.

Anna Corning shared that she would like to focus the discussion on recall and noted that there are certain requirements and a process to issue a recall provision. Michael Ward and Patricia Lloyd shared they would be able to provide example language at future meetings regarding thresholds to get recall on a ballot if it is something the Committee is interested in. Committee members were recognized for comments and questions on recall, Anna Corning, Michael Ward, and Patricia Lloyd were all available to respond.

Anna Corning asked Committee members to share what topics they would like to prioritize for the next meeting to work towards getting foundational votes done. Anna Corning noted that goal setting, budget priorities, and the Mayor’s role on the School Committee are already topics that planned to be discussed. Suggestions from members included resident assembly with a Strong Mayor, language in the Charter about future work of Charter Review Committees, elections concerning the Mayor, and if candidates would have the ability of running for both Council and Mayor.

The Charter Review Committee adjourned at approximately 8:00p.m.

Attachments:

Forms of Government with Example Options for Modifications Chart

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/615?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=1d98f5510b824daa65e2a58cc144271b