

DRAFT

## MINUTES OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

The Cambridge Charter Review Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 2022. The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.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 public meeting was remote via zoom.

**At the request of the Chair, the Clerk called the roll.**

NAME	YES	NO	PRESENT	ABSENT
Kaleb Abebe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jessica Dejesus Acevedo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mosammat Faria Afreen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathleen Born (Chairperson)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nikolas Bowie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Chen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Max Clermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Gilbert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kai Long	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick Magee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mina Makarious	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Peterson (joined at 5:40pm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ellen Shachter(joined at 5:40 pm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jim Stockard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VOTE TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
	YES	NO	PRESENT	ABSENT

**13 members recorded as present. 2 members recorded as absent.**

The Chair brought forward the following Communications to the Committee to be placed on file:

- Communications from Committee Members
  - Communication from Member Susan Shell
- Communications from Council Members
  - N/A
- Communications from the Public
  - Communication from Alan Sadun
  - Communication from Josiah Someone
  - Communication from Robin Chen

**Chair Born recognized a motion from Member Jim Stockard to place the Communications on file. The motion was seconded by Member Kai Long.**

**At the request of the Chair, the Clerk called the roll.**

NAME	YES	NO	PRESENT	ABSENT
Kaleb Abebe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jessica Dejesus Acevedo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Kathleen Born (Chairperson)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nikolas Bowie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Chen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Max Clermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Gilbert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kai Long	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick Magee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Ellen Shachter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jim Stockard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VOTE TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
	YES	NO	PRESENT	ABSENT

**The motion to place the Communications received by the Committee on file passed with 13 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members recorded as absent.**

Chair Born invited Anna Corning, Patrick Hayes, Elizabeth Corbo, and Michael Ward to begin the discussion. Anna Corning started with an overview of the materials sent to members regarding selection of a decision-making process. She said that most members were interested in using the ‘Fist-to-Five’ method of voting and explained some details about the method. At Ms. Corning’s suggestion, the committee practiced a ‘Fist-to-Five’ vote and took a vote to approve the use of this decision-making process with the following results:

**Fist-to-Five Vote to approve use of this decision-making process:**

- 0/fist-none
- 1-none
- 2-none
- 3-none
- 4-Four
- 5-Nine

**The practice vote to approve the ‘Fist-to-Five’ voting method for decision-making passed with 4 ‘Four’ votes and 5 ‘Five’ votes.**

There was some clarifying conversation on when the 'Fist-to-Five' vote would be used. Elliot Veloso (Cambridge Law Dept.) explained that 'Fist-to-Five' would be used to gauge consensus during discussions, then when there is a final decision a roll call vote would be taken in accordance with Robert's Rules. Ms. Corning further clarified that this method will be used for tentative matters/gauging consensus on matters. Ms. Corbo stated that anything requiring formal action or adoption could be decided by a formal vote. The discussion concluded with Ms. Corning stated the wish of the committee to use 'Fist-to-Five' as a discussion tool and retain the use of formal voting for procedural and formal decisions.

**On a motion from Member Jim Stockard to adopt the 'Fist-to-Five' voting method (as amended) as a decision-making tool. The motion was seconded by Max Clermont.**

**At the request of the Chair, the Clerk called the roll.**

NAME	YES	NO	PRESENT	ABSENT
Kaleb Abebe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jessica Dejesus Acevedo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mosammat Faria Afreen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathleen Born (Chairperson)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Kevin Chen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Max Clermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Patrick Magee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Susan Shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jim Stockard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VOTE TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
	YES	NO	PRESENT	ABSENT

**The motion to adopt the 'Fist-to-Five' voting method (as amended) as a decision-making tool passed with 13 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members recorded as absent.**

Ms. Corning stated that the amended proposal would be forwarded to members and posted online to the Charter Review webpage.

Member Kaleb Abebe suggested the Fist-to-Five vote for the adoption of the Committee Ground Rules. Ms. Corning called the vote as follows.

**Fist to Five Vote to adopt the Committee Ground Rules:**

- 0/fist-none
- 1-none
- 2-none
- 3-none

4-One

5-Twelve

(2 members absent)

Ms. Corning next led a review of the submission of values from members. Member Mina Markarious explained that the writing group attempted to capture sentiments that were broad and pertinent to the group goals specifically in its initial draft.

Members discussed the draft values document. Member Acevedo explained that the writing group used the headings from the collective key words received from members to create a concise vision statement. She asked members if there were sentences or words that were preferred, stating that the writing group would welcome that feedback on the draft. Ms. Corning explained that the writing team will use the conversation to prepare a second draft of the values to be voted on in the next meeting. Member Stockard asked if the group needed to acknowledge the statement sent by Member Susan Shell (and shared with the committee by Ms. Corning, as Ms. Shell was absent from the meeting). Member Max Clermont stated that Member Shell's statements should be considered in the same manner as other submitted thoughts. Chair Born stated her belief that there is a way to make statements about past wrongs while avoiding raising tensions without glossing over what has happened through word crafting. Member Peterson stated that without Member Shell in attendance, her statement should be referred to the next meeting when Member Shell is present and can articulate her concerns.

Ms. Corning moved the discussion on to the Community Engagement Working Document. The Committee discussed ideas for public engagement including a revised website, newsletter, virtual/in-person forums, and mailers to support public engagement. Chair Born stated that there is a 7-member planning committee and suggested that their first public meeting be to discuss a thought-out plan for community engagement.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jameson Quinn commented that they are working on a piece regarding voting systems in Cambridge and other comparable cities and asked for help accessing raw ballot data from recent elections.

The meeting was adjourned at appx 7:35pm.