

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kathleen Born, Chair
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, December 20, 2022. The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30p.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 meeting was remote via zoom.

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

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

Present – 12 Absent – 3. Quorum established

*Nikolas Bowie and Mina Makarios were both marked present at 5:42p.m.

Chair Born opened the meeting with the Adoption of the Minutes from the December 20, 2022, Charter Review meeting and the December 13, 2022 Charter Review Subcommittee meeting.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Yes

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, Chair – Yes

Yes – 12, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passes.

The Chair noted that there was two Communications submitted from the Public (Attachment A and Attachment B).

Chair Born recognized a motion from member Jim Stockard and seconded by member Kaleb Abebe to place the two Communications on file.

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Yes

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, Chair – Yes

Yes – 12, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passes.

Anna Corning began the meeting by reviewing the next steps of the Charter Review, which included an overview of the panel, upcoming city presentations from the Finance Department and Election Commission, interviews, and a community engagement update.

Member Ellen Shachter had clarifying questions about relaying the basic fundamentals of the charter to the public, Anna Corning responded by noting she has documents that members can use to help the public have a better understanding.

Elliot Veloso, First Assistant City Solicitor for the Law Department, commented that because the Charter Review Committee may be starting to take official actions with scheduling community engagement and reaching out to the public, he advises that members should be taking formal votes because they are official acts being taken by the Committee, and by doing this there is an official record. He advised the members that any official action that the committee is taking, there should be a roll call vote so the Clerk can record it.

The Chair, Kathleen Born had a clarifying question about votes being taken at Planning Subcommittee meetings. Elliot Veloso responded by noting that if there were a decision by the Planning Subcommittee, the Subcommittee can take a vote, but that would be a vote to refer it to the Committee as a whole.

Anna Corning opened up conversation to members of the Committee for comments and concerns about the discussion notes from the December 20, 2022 meeting, titled “Summary of 12/20 Round Table Discussion” (Attachment C).

Member Ellen Shachter asked if Anna Corning would be able to add Ward versus At Large to the discussion notes, to which Anna Corning agreed to add.

Member Susan Shell had a clarifying question about rank choice voting. Anna Corning responded by noting rank choice voting was not a topic that was brought up in the previous discussion but would add it as a piece members would like to talk about.

Elizabeth Corbo, Human Resource Auditor an Employment Operations Analyst for the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, offered comments and suggestions to the members of the Committee about the discussion notes, stressing the importance of engagement with community by using a form of government to do that, increasing the transparency and accountability with voters, creating a balance of authority with the legislative and executive branches of authority, and making a change in government more accessible to voters.

Elliot Veloso advised the Chair, Kathleen Born, to entertain a motion to place the December 20, 2022 meeting notes on file.

Chair Born recognized a motion from member Jim Stockard and seconded by member Susan Shell to add the “Summary of 12/20 Round Tanle Discussion (Attachment C) to the record of the meeting minutes and place them on file.

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 – Yes
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, Chair – Yes

Yes – 14, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passes.

The Chair, Kathleen Born offered comments about the December 20, 2022 discussion notes and suggested that members think about the Council making policy, how the Manager implements the policy, and how residents might be able to influence and communicate with the City Manager.

Members Susan Shell, Kai Long, Jim Stockard, Mina Makarios, Jennifer Gilbert, Ellen Shachter, Lisa Peterson, Nikolas Bowie, Kathleen Born voiced their concerns and shared opinions on legislative and executive branches forms of government, policy and administration, and the current government system in Cambridge. They also offered suggestions on ways members should be engaging with the public and how they want to see the government represented. Many members stressed the importance of citizen participation and involvement.

Chair Born recognized a motion from member Mina Markarios and seconded by member Kaleb Abebe, that the Committee will designate the Charter Review Committee staff to plan public engagement events on January 21, 2023 and February 2, 2023. The staff will use the prepared flier (Attachment D) and public information available on <https://www.cambridgema.gov/charterreview> in order to publicize engagement efforts. 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 – Yes
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, Chair – Yes

Yes – 14, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passes.

Elizabeth Corbo noted that she was accompanied by her colleagues Michael Ward and Patricia Lloyd, and they did an overview of their presentation titled “Example Baseline Cambridge Charter in Modern Format” (Attachment E).

Members of the Committee had clarifying questions and comments throughout the presentation to which Elizabeth Corbo and Michael Ward were able to respond respectively.

Member Ellen Shachter suggested that the Committee form smaller working groups to focus on specific parts of drafting new articles going forward.

Anna Corning opened public comment.

Public Comment

John Hawkinson spoke on comments made by members of the Committee, statutory deadlines, and the City’s budget.

Jameson Quinn spoke on participation as it relates to a voting system, moving elections to even years, filling vacancies, and campaign financing and democracy vouchers.

The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion that was seconded by member Patrick Magee to amend the previous motion to read “That the Committee will designate the Charter Review Committee staff to plan public engagement events on January 21, 2023 and ~~February 2, 2023~~ February 4, 2023. The staff will use the prepared flier (Attachment D) and public information available on <https://www.cambridgema.gov/charterreview> in order to publicize engagement efforts.”

Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Yes

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, Chair – Yes

Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passes.

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

Two written Communications were received from the public, Attachments A & B.

Attachment C - Summary of 12/20 Round Table Discussion

Attachment D – Your Guide to the Cambridge Charter Review Flier

Attachment E – Example Baseline Cambridge Charter in Modern Format

Clerk’s Note: The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/387?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=22e978a469c4e8a2261ec1d6b4f3c6e