

I. Call to Order

Members Present: Gerry Myers, Hussein Amuri, Doug Johnson, Prashant Singh, Sam Myers, Liz Edsell (on phone), Eric Covey joined at 5:46

City Staff Present: Jessie Baker
Guests Present: Marguerite Aldermen, Dwayne Sherwood, Alex Yin, Tori Cleiland

Call to Order by: 5:34 by Gerry Myers

Minutes Recorded by: Jessie Baker

II. Public Comment

Marguerite Aldermen – Interested in work of Charter Commission. Agrees with intent of Commission. Movement in Vermont to ban home rule rights. Vermont is a Dillon's rule state. Has to go to the voters and then the State. Also consider other charter issues:

•CELDF – interested in charter changes around community and nature rights. Vehicle to challenge other laws. Add such rights. Aligned to the City's Strategic Vision. May help us address concerns about F-35s or PFAS contamination. Look at the CELDF website to see what other communities have done to change the charters in this way.

www.celdf.org.

This has not gone to the Council at this point.

Gerry wondered about timeline and Council direction. Dwayne Sherwood - Will the vote be in November 2020? Yes. His initial reaction is that non-citizens should not be allowed to vote. Would a member of the Commission be willing to have tea to discuss these issues? Doug Johnson and Prashant Singh volunteered.

III. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Passed unanimously

Motion by: Liz

Second: Prashant

IV. Review of Fact Sheet

Jessie reviewed the process for developing the fact sheet. Gerry and Alex discussed the demographics section of the fact sheet, and are requesting the removal of the breakdown of foreign-born demographics, as the information may be duplicitous. Liz and Hussein agreed. Gerry, Tori, Eric, Liz, and Doug discussed the "How Would this Work in Winooski?" section, with some recommend simplification changes. Jessie will work to

bring back an edited version to the Commission.

V. Discussion of Outreach Questions

Gerry opened the discussion with possible questions, which could be included on the fact sheet. Sam asked if the Commission will be voting on the fact sheet in entirety, or on the questions themselves. Gerry clarified that once the document is closer to a final version, the Commission as a whole will vote on it. Sam, Eric, Hussein, Liz, Doug, Prashant, Sam discussed questions in regards to the legal citizenship status of eligible residents, and how that would be reflected in language. Tori, Eric, Gerry, Sam and Doug discussed voter checklist maintenance. Eric, Gerry, Sam, Hussein, Prashant, and Liz discussed the purpose of the “Questions We Are Considering” – is it an FAQ, or questions we are asking the public for their input on? Sam, Eric and Jessie discussed eligibility to run for and hold municipal office as a question frequently asked. The Commission decided for the section to be an FAQ. Sam, Gerry, Alex, Eric and Liz discussed voter checklist maintenance and access, as a question frequently asked. Liz, Tori, Sam, Doug, and Prashant discussed if there should something addressing the common misconception “why doesn’t somebody just become a citizen?” Alex and Liz discussed outreach to current non-citizen residents. Liz, Doug, Eric, and Hussein discussed ensuring doing no harm. Gerry, Eric, Tori, and Jessie discussed implications for school district voting.

VI. Implicit Bias Training

Gerry, Jessie, and Alex discovered a possible future implicit bias training that’s in the process of being scheduled.

VII. Review of Proposed 2020 Meeting and Events Calendar and Project Plan

Gerry, Liz and Jessie discussed the next meeting being on February 4th. Liz, Jessie, and Eric discussed Town Meeting Day outreach. Gerry requested that the City Council be asked to move their February 18th meeting to 7pm.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by: Liz

Second: Eric

Time: 7:01pm Approved unanimously.