

Metro Charter Committee

PO Box 9236 • Portland, OR 97207 • 220-1540

AGENDA

DATE: July 31, 1991
MEETING: Planning Subcommittee
DAY: Wednesday
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Metro Charter Committee office, 4th floor, 2000 SW 1st Avenue, Portland

5:00 Call meeting to order.

Adopt work plans for recommendation to the full Charter Committee:

1. For a Metro Charter to be voted on in the primary election, May 9, 1992.
2. For a Metro Charter to be voted on in the general election, November 3, 1992.

6:30 Adopt preliminary budgets considering May and November work plans for recommendation to full Charter Committee.

7:00 Select election date for recommendation to full Charter Committee.

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
FOR THE CHARTER COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

July 31, 1991

Metro Center, Metro Charter Committee Office

Subcommittee Members Present: Hardy Myers (Chair), Jon Egge,
Ned Look, Wes Myllenbeck,
Isaac Regenstreif, Mimi
Urbigkeit

Other Committee Members Present: Ron Cease, Bob Shoemaker

Subcommittee Members Absent: Frank Josselson, Mary Tobias

Chair Myers called the subcommittee meeting to order at 5:10 p.m..

Chair Myers introduced Janet Whitfield, Committee Administrator.

1. Adopt work plans for recommendation to the full Charter Committee

Chair Myers felt that the work plan should have different functions; topical research, benchmark dates at which the Committee will complete given segments of the work, and provide the Committee a basis around which the work will be divided among subgroups or the full Committee or a combination of those.

Chair Myers asked for preliminary questions or comments. Hearing none, he proposed looking at the elements of the work plan.

Chair Myers discussed the topical areas of the sequence of work. Initial concentration would center around Metro functions and powers, then Metro finance, then Metro structure and subtopics for each of the larger topics as well as miscellaneous areas which do not fall under the categories.

Jon Egge commented that the topics are very closely tied together. The cities, counties, and voters will look at it as a package and the Committee needs to step back and look at the whole picture.

Chair Myers agreed, felt that the initial decisions need to be looked at as preliminary and possibly revisited later in the discussion. Everything in the first work through should be subject to further examination before final adoption.

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Myers asked Committee Administrator Janet Whitfield to give an overview of the May and November election work plans.

The November work plan has about five meetings for each subject. With the May work plan, there are three dates per subject. The November work plan has about three meetings a month with more breaks. The November date would provide more time to write the Charter and to look at it after it has been approved at each step. Both would provide for public comment in all three counties after the first and second drafts. There will be 31 meetings for the long version (November) and 23 for the short version (May).

Ron Cease showed concern over how much work the Committee feels comfortable giving to the subcommittees. If the Committee would like more full Committee meetings, it will take more time than if subcommittees met.

Chair Myers moved the Committee on to the issue of blocks of time and the number of meetings which will occur during that time period. He suggested the subcommittee agree on bench mark dates by which the full Committee will complete its discussion of each topic area. If there would not be enough meetings provided during that time frame, more meetings could be added at a later date in order to finish a task within a given time.

Wes Myllenbeck expressed concern about not allowing the staff enough time to provide meaningful information for a meeting.

Jon Egge stated that the May version has no space for error.

Ron Cease stated that he has thought all along the May date is unrealistic. In reality, there are only five or six months left until the Charter has to be completed to be put on the ballot.

Jon Egge and Ron Cease expressed concern about having enough time by May for the Committee to become a cohesive unit and have a substantive agreement in order to sell the Charter.

Wes Myllenbeck expressed a desire to continue the meetings in the various counties since the initial meetings were positive.

Chair Myers brought up the topic of a special legislative session and election. Discussion then surrounded which topics could possibly be on the May or November ballots. Discussion also included the possible mind state of the voting public for the primary and general elections.

Ron Cease brought up the possible need for more than one election to enact the charter. One election could be to pass the Charter and another could be to elect the officers. He suggested the Committee might want to consider when these additional elections would occur and work backwards to determine if the May or November date is better.

Chair Myers illustrated the two schedules to provide a visual comparison.

Ned Look asked that public officials be invited to give testimony in reference to each topic, especially with concern to powers and functions.

Ron Cease expressed concern over the fairness problem between local governments and the general public.

Chair Myers asked the subcommittee to reach an agreement as to what the schedule would look like if X date or Y date is chosen.

Ron Cease would like to see the pros and cons of each election date on a sheet of paper.

The subcommittee then proceeded to go through the May work plan meeting by meeting changing meeting topics, adding meetings, and eliminating meetings. Changes in the schedule reflect the subcommittee's desire to provide more review of each draft by the Committee. More time was allowed between Committee approval of each draft and public comment to allow for the circulation and distribution of the Charter. Rather than have public comment take three weeks for a weekly meeting in each county, the subcommittee chose to condense the schedule and hold the public hearings in one week.

Ron Cease felt it would be helpful to look at Metro now as if the current system was done by charter instead of statute. This would give the group a sense of what it would look like and could be used as a starting point.

Jon Egge stated that full Committee attendance would be important to the public concept of the Committee.

Ron Cease asked for clarification as to the specific language in the bill (SB 298) regarding when and where the public hearings take place. The bill states that public hearings must be held in the three counties on the proposed Charter.

Ron Cease suggested that the public officials be sought out and asked to respond to the Charters in writing or in person to allow for more input without increasing the amount of public hearings.

Ron Cease asked if the statute predicated that it be one document. In other words, can an issue of great concern to the public be placed on the same ballot as a separate issue?

Chair Myers asked if the subcommittee agreed on the changes made to the May work schedule. All present were in agreement.

Chair Myers then asked if the same changes could be made in the November work plan. The changes were made. Additional changes were made in the November schedule to compensate for the possible lack of quorum at August meetings. Meetings were added in place of the no meeting dates to allow for more discussion of Metro and the review of the charter.

2. Adoption of preliminary budgets considering the May and November work plans for recommendation to the full Charter Committee

Janet Whitfield distributed the revised versions of preliminary budgets.

Janet Whitfield passed on information from Mary Tobias regarding a need to increase the materials and office supply budget. Janet Whitfield also mentioned that the charge for telephone services may increase.

Janet Whitfield passed on the Metro Finance Department's concern that if the committee does intend to increase the budget for the November election, the finance department be notified before the fiscal year ends so that they can budget for it.

Chair Myers suggested increasing the printing and photocopying figures to include printing the Charter, letter head, and notification to the special districts and cities.

Wes Myllenbeck proposed an increase in the professional services figure.

Janet Whitfield stated the total budget for the May election is \$90,404.51. The November election total budget is \$123,129.51. Metro tour by plane or bus is not figured into the budget.

3. Select election date for recommendation to the full Charter Committee.

Chair Myers suggested that the subcommittee go ahead with the two work plan proposals, get a good concept of the pros and cons for each date and take up the topic at the next full Committee meeting.

Chair Myers adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimi Iboshi

Kimi Iboshi
Committee Clerk