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May 21, 1991

Hardy Myers,
Stoel Rives
900 S.W. 5th Ave.,
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Hardy:

Unfortunately I am not one of those committee members who opted for the next meeting of the Charter Commission to be held on Wednesday (tomorrow) night. I, too, want to root the Blazers to victory (which they will have tonight), but I must leave on a very early flight in the morning heading to Scottsdale, AZ for a conference for the rest of the week.

While I regret not being there--I respect the democratic process. I hope you will indulge me a bit because I can't be there I would like to raise a few issues for your consideration at tomorrow night's meeting.

(1) I wish to respectfully request the minutes of the meeting on May 7th, page four paragraph three to reflect that I did ask the question, but it was a prelude to an appeal to the committee to keep the process open and permit any and all who might wish to apply even if we are not required to open the process up. I would appreciate it if the minutes could be amended to add that to the spirit of the question asked.

(2) While I have had no understanding as to who would be interested in serving as Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, I know that we are going to be sensitive to making sure we balance the officer slots from a regional perspective. I would also like to appeal to you and to the committee to strongly consider one of the women on the committee as Vice-Chair.

Again, I believe, as we all do, that this committee has a lot of work to do and a tremendous challenge before us. Let us be open to the broadest variety of thought and diversity of backgrounds as possible. I specifically stated Vice-Chair due to the stereotypical values given a woman in the Secretary-Treasurer's role. I realize the position is not a demeaning one, however, it can be perceived as a traditional role for a woman and I'd hope that this can be avoided.

(3) As was stated last week, I strongly believe that we should select the November 1992 election for this proposed ballot measure.

(4) On the by-laws, I have only one comment. While I know it is implied, it might not be a bad idea in Subsection 8 to add something to the effect, "...the Director (Committee Administrator) shall appoint and direct such staff as allocated by the Commission."

Subsection 7 adequately deals with the vacancies on the Commission if an officer leaves, however, I believe it should be specific about how to fill a vacancy if a Commission member vacates his/her seat. While the process is outlined in the statute in Section 2 subsection 5, (and I know it supersedes by-laws) would it be prudent to clarify it here also?

(5) On the whole notion of staff--I am wholly in favor of the staff being the employees of the Commission and not consultants. I believe for a lot of reasons that this is the best way for the Commission to manage its business and ensure accountability.

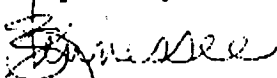
(6) A budget which represents a 12 to 18-month period I believe is good. The staff will need time to gear up and gear down their operations. My only misgiving is the amount of dollars available for legal consultation. Unless it is in-kind from some group, (not to be insensitive to the number of local government experts around the table in the legal profession) it just strikes me that it would be important to have some outside counsel on specific matters as they come up.

(7) The work-plans both seem workable and challenging, which ever is passed is fine with me.

Let me thank you for allowing me to express my concerns to you and the committee. Please know that none of what I have stated is meant to be anything other than a concerned committee member who wants to see us do the best job we can. I am very committed to being an active part of your team. You should know that I will heartily support whatever final decisions the Commission makes.

Warm personal regards.

Respectfully,



Matt Hennessee,
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