



METRO

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Wickie Rocker
Memorandum

Date: May 1, 1992
To: Metro Council, Executive, Interested Parties
From: Betsy Bergstein *BB*
Regarding: Status Report-Metro Charter Committee
April 30, 1992 Meeting - Structure of Regional
Government

The Metro Charter Committee by a 14-2 vote passed the following proposal for the structure of metropolitan government at their April 30, 1992 meeting:

Council Chair

- Elected at-large on non-partisan basis for 4-year terms
- Full time position
- Chairs Council meetings
- Has one vote on all issues
- Sets Council agenda
- Proposes budget with the Administrative Officer
- Salary the same as current Executive Officer
- Effective January 1, 1993, present Executive completes current term in this new position
- Hires Administrative Officer with Council consensus
- Can fire Administrative Officer

Council

- 13 members, elected by district plus Council Chair
- Part-time positions
- Non-partisan, 4 year terms by district
- Pay roughly the same as current system
- Select Council Vice Chair by majority vote for 1 year term
 - o Council Vice Chair chairs Council meetings in absence of Council Chair
- Council has all power in government to set policy and ensure that it is implemented
- Selection and supervision of audit function

Administrative Officer

- Hired by Council Chair with Council consensus
- Can be fired by Council Chair
- Hires staff

- Implements policy of Council
- Non-interference clause in Charter to minimize Council involvement in operational matters
- Prepares budget proposal for consideration of Council with Council Chair

Discussion. The Committee had four proposals on structure left from their previous meeting. They began with a vote on proposal #2, the Derr proposal which split planning and administrative functions between the Council and Exec. It failed 11-3. They then moved for a vote on proposal #1 which was the current structure which failed 8-6. Voting yes were Hennessee, Cease, Carnahan, Look, Wyers, Phelps, Myllenbeck, Myers; voting no were Hales, Urbigkeit, Tobias, Meek, Josselson and Derr. Egge and Shoemaker were absent.

Charlie Hales then submitted in writing a new proposal which he said was "modeled after Washington County." Tobias added that it had "the support of all the Chambers of Commerce." The "Hales proposal" is very similar to the "Tobias proposal" which was introduced last week, with the exception that the latter allowed veto power to the Council Chair (called the Presiding Officer in Tobias proposal), Council override of veto with 2/3 vote. The Tobias proposal also had a 14 member council with a Presiding Officer elected at large, full-time, paid, head of Council, only voting in case of a tie.

Committee discussion included the following:

- Ron Cease called the Council Vice-Chair a "glorified cheerleader"
- Cease said the structure automatically set up a conflict situation; appointed chief exec for the region is a mistake;
- Ray Phelps said he would vote no because he did not like the idea of two elected "heads" --- the Chair and Vice-Chair; felt it made the Council more immersed in administration than currently; Stated that he did not agree that the Council should be more policy oriented; Council does more policy than it gets credit for.
- Charlie Hales defended the idea that the most powerful officer should be on the policy side not administrative side;
- Matt Hennessee asked for clarification on the role of the Council Chair and the "non-interference clause" which he said is "not worth a hoot and a holler in practicality."
- Mimi Urbigkeit stated she liked a smaller council, more inclined to look at region as a whole.
- Frank Josselson said that the Chair was too strong; will oppose Charter.
- Mary Tobias suggested putting both models out for public comment;
- Ray Phelps objected to more orchestrated public hearings;
- Ron Cease suggested putting both models (manager or elected exec) on the ballot for a vote;
- The Committee objected to the Cease idea.

- Wes Myllenbeck said he has changed his mind --- elected chief exec is the best way to go;
- Hales stated he put proposal on table as a compromise; his ideal is 3-5 full time councilors and elimination of three county governments.
- Hardy Myers said we have an even split on the issue of elected exec versus professional manager; even 9 yes votes on existing structure not enough.
- Josselson objected stating Egge and Shoemaker were absent; State he was pessimistic committee could get a large vote on any structure model because a number of members won't move from option #1 (existing structure);
- Hennessee suggested forming a committee to study; Mary stated it needed to be debated at this table

There was a 15 minute break.

Committee came back from break and took vote on Hales proposal (passed 12-2).

Additional votes.

- Voted in favor of term limitations (11-4). 12 years (3 terms) for part time positions; 8 years (2 terms) for full time position.
- Voted unanimously to require one year residency requirement before running for a Metro office.
- Motion that Metro incumbent must resign to run for another elected office failed (11-3, 1 abstained).
- Filing vacancies by special election for Council Chair; by vote of the Council for Council members - passed unanimously.
- Elected auditor position, failed (10-4)
- Retain statutory provisions for initiative, referendum and recall (passed unanimously)