

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COSTA MESA CHARTER COMMITTEE

JUNE 26, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center, at Costa Mesa City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

PRESENT: FACILITATORS: Dr. Kirk Bauermeister, Dr. Mike Decker
CHARTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Ron Amburgey, Brett Eckles, William Fancher, Thomas Graham, Gene Hutchins, Kerry McCarthy, Mary Ann O'Connell, Henry Panian, Tom Pollitt, Lee Ramos, Andrew Smith, Kevin Tobin, Harold Weitzberg
LEGAL COUNSEL: Kimberly Hall Barlow, Yolanda Summerhill

ABSENT: None

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Dr. Kirk Bauermeister

Invocation led by Tom Pollitt.

3. WELCOME BY DR. BAUERMEISTER AND DR. DECKER

4. AGENDA OVERVIEW by Dr. Decker

5. COMMITTEE TEAM ICE BREAKER

Introduction of Committee team members.

6. FACILITATOR TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Bauermeister and Dr. Decker introduced themselves.

7. WHAT IS A CHARTER

Kimberly Hall Barlow, Legal Counsel, spoke on the history of charters, provided examples of areas the Committee can address in a charter (included a PowerPoint presentation).

Thomas Graham inquired on San Diego's Charter that only requires 3% of voters to sign the petition in order for it to be brought to the City Council.

Hank Panian inquired if the taxing powers are the same.

Kimberly Hall Barlow responded that taxing powers fall under the jurisdiction of the State Constitution.

Dr. Bauermeister spoke on the role of the Committee in drafting a charter.

Harold Weitzberg stated the Committee should first determine if a charter is needed.

Kimberly Hall Barlow commented that the City Council charged the Committee to draft a charter.

Dr. Bauermeister responded that the goal of the Committee is to draft a charter; however, he would get clarification and provide information back to the Committee.

Tom Pollitt stated the role of the Committee is to put together the best charter that is universally liked.

8. BREAK- 6:46 p.m. to 6:55 p.m.

9. BROWN ACT SUMMARY

Kimberly Hall Barlow spoke on the Brown Act – Open Meeting Laws (included a PowerPoint presentation).

10. FACILITATION: WHAT IS IT?

Dr. Bauermeister spoke on the decision making process and the Committee obtaining a consensus.

Harold Weitzberg commented that a needs assessment should be done first.

Gene Hutchins requested the minutes of the April 23, 2013 City Council meeting.

Thomas Graham said that it may be beneficial to speak to other cities that already have a charter, and the benefits of their charter.

William Fancher requested a summary of the City budget.

Tom Pollitt commented on prevailing wages.

Discussion ensued regarding the merits of the consensus process vs. majority rule.

Break 7:50 p.m. to 7:55 p.m.

11. CREATION OF NORMS

The Committee created the following NORMS (Rules):

- Be Prepared. Do Your Homework.
- No Plopping – Expand On One Idea at a Time.
- Encourage Participation of All Committee Members.
- Operate With a Sense of Responsibility for the Best Interest of the Public.
- Actively Listen to All Ideas.
- Respect Each Other and Other Member's Opinions.
- Stay On Point.

Brenda Green, City Clerk, showed how to find Charter Committee information on the City website.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Speaker, inquired if the facilitators were covered by the Brown Act?

Kimberly Hall Barlow responded they are not, because they are not members of the legislative body.

Robin Leffler commented that the Mayor said the Committee would decide if a charter is in the best interest of the City.

Geoff West commented that the first goal of the Committee is to find out what is broken, and agreed on a needs assessment.

Mike Harmanos, expressed displeasure with Kimberly Hall Barlow's reference to the previous charter as verboten.

Charles Mooney inquired on the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair.

13. MEETING SUMMARY

Summary of the Meeting by Dr. Decker.

14. AGENDA BUILDING FOR JULY 10, 2013

Discussion ensued regarding having an invocation on the agenda.

Consensus of the Committee: Add a Moment of Silence to the agenda.

Gene Hutchins requested copies of Measure V.

Kevin Tobin requested background information on the previous charter process.

Consensus of the Committee: Bring to the July 10, 2013 meeting 2 to 5 key civic issues each member feels needs to be addressed.

Consensus of the Committee for the following topics to be on the July 10, 2013 agenda: Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance; Moment of Silence; Review of Minutes; Report on Committee Responsibilities; Agenda Overview; Committee Team Ice Breaker; Public Comments; Discussion regarding election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Time Keeper; Review of Norms and Process; Identify potential key Issues the charter might want to address; Information requests; meeting summary; and agenda building.

15. ADJOURNMENT at 8:55 p.m.



CITY CLERK