

**Whatcom County  
Charter Review Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

1 January 5, 1995

2 **I. CALL TO ORDER BY TEMPORARY CHAIR DON HANSEY**

3 The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. in the Whatcom County Council  
4 Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham by acting Chair Don Hansey.

5 **II. ROLL CALL**

6 **Present:**

7 Terry Unger  
8 Kathy Sutter  
9 Yvonne Goldsmith  
10 Orphalee Smith  
11 Joe Elenbaas  
12 Mary Stender  
13 Don Hansey  
14 Ron Polinder  
15 Danna Beech  
16 Mary Scrimsher  
17 Ray Radke  
18 Darlene McLeod  
19 Georgia Gardner

**Absent, but excused:**

Karen Frederick  
Keith Ahrens

20 **III. SWEARING IN - SHIRLEY FORSLOF, COUNTY AUDITOR**

21 Whatcom County Auditor Shirley Forslof presented Commission Members with  
22 an oath of office, then conducted the swearing-in ceremony.

23 **IV. ELECTION OF PERMANENT CHAIR BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

24 Hansey proposed a procedure for the evening's election of officers. McLeod  
25 proposed not electing a permanent chair at this point, and suggested that the election of  
26 chair could wait until perhaps the third meeting of the Commission; she asked if the  
27 Commission could prevail upon Hansey to serve as Chair until the permanent election.  
28 Gardner supported McLeod's proposal, as did Polinder.

1 Radke disagreed and urged that the Commission follow the agenda. Elenbaas  
2 agreed with Radke, and pointed out that the Commission can not function efficiently  
3 without officers.

4 Discussion ensued. Hansey explained the rationale for the agenda and his  
5 feelings about the conduct of the meetings.

6 *Unger moved that the committee at this point take up item 8, the rules of order, so*  
7 *that an organized discussion could take place about the election of officers; he further moved*  
8 *that the Commission adopt Roberts Rules of Order. The motion was seconded.*

9 Hansey spoke in favor of the motion.

10 Motion carried unanimously.

11 VIII. DISCUSSION OF OPERATING RULES OF ORDER (ROBERTS RULES,  
12 STURGIS RULES, ETC.)

13 Elenbaas noted that one of the first item of business for a body, under Roberts, is  
14 to elect a permanent chair. He suggested that the Commission take that first step.

15 *Polinder moved to delay election until the next meeting, that we secondly prevail*  
16 *upon the chair to continue his good work ... that we ask for a volunteer to serve as secretary,*  
17 *in that official capacity ... and that we sometime in the course of this meeting add to the*  
18 *agenda that each of us take a couple of minutes to say something about themselves, explain*  
19 *why they are here and what their priorities are here. The motion was seconded.*

20 Radke spoke against the motion and again urged that the committee follow the  
21 agenda. McLeod made a procedural point and spoke in favor of the motion. Beech said  
22 she would be interested in knowing who wants to serve in offices.

23 *Sutter moved to amend the motion to go ahead with nominations, and those who are*  
24 *nominated be subjected to questions or interviews for anyone who needs more information*  
25 *before they make a vote. The motion was seconded.*

26 Hansey restated the motion to indicate that the nominations would take place at  
27 this meeting, as would the introductions; he then ruled the amendment out of order,  
28 since it would contradict the main motion.

29 Hansey put the main motion on hold, with the consent of the body, in order to  
30 carry out introductions of Commission members. He called upon Commission members

1 to tell of their backgrounds, to explain their reasons for serving on the Commission, and  
2 to indicate any interest in serving as an officer.

3           ● Unger said he probably is the "grand-daddy" of all members in terms of work  
4 in government service. He talked about his background and stated his reasons for  
5 serving on the Commission. He indicated an interest in the vice-chairmanship.

6           ● Sutter, president of the Coalition for Land Use Education, explained her  
7 developing interest in government over the past four years and her activism related to  
8 recent issues. She explained her reasons for serving on the Commission, and indicated  
9 an interest in the chairmanship.

10           ● Goldsmith, a Ferndale City Council Member, gave a brief overview of her  
11 political and community activities. She explained her reasons for serving on the  
12 Commission and indicated an interest in the position of secretary.

13           ● Smith, a self-employed Certified Public Accountant, told of her background  
14 and interest in local politics. She explained her reasons for serving on the Commission.

15           ● Elenbaas, a farmer and family man, explained his background and past work  
16 on the Charter Review Commission. He explained his interest in serving on the  
17 Commission and indicated an interest in the position of vice-chair.

18           ● Stender, a member of the Bellingham School Board and founder of the  
19 Children's Museum, explained her background and community activities. She explained  
20 her reasons for serving on the Commission.

21           ● Hansey, former chair of the original Board of freeholders and former County  
22 Council Member, explained why he was serving on the Commission.

23           ● Polinder, Lynden Christian High School principal, said he too was a former  
24 Charter Review Commission member. He explained his reasons for participating on the  
25 Commission. He indicated an interest in serving in an office if necessary.

26           ● Beech, postmaster of Maple Falls, explained her background and interest in  
27 local government issues. She explained her reasons for participating on the Commission.

28           ● Scrimsher, a lifelong Whatcom County resident and current county employee,  
29 explained her interest in participating on the Commission. She also listed her  
30 community activities.

1           ● Radke, a retired Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army and a 17-year Whatcom  
2 County resident, explained his reasons for serving on the Commission.

3           ● McLeod, a City of Bellingham Human Resources Department employee and  
4 former Charter Review Commission member, explained some of her background and  
5 skills. She talked about her reasons for serving on the Commission.

6           ● Gardner, a Blaine City Council Member and Certified Public Accountant,  
7 talked about her background and interest in local government. She explained her  
8 reasons for serving on the Commission.

9           Hansey restated the main motion.

10          Motion failed by voice vote.

11   IV. ELECTION OF PERMANENT CHAIR BY ROLL CALL VOTE

12          Hansey opened the nominations for the position of permanent chair.

13          *Elenbaas moved that the Commission have a 10-minute recess prior to nominations.*  
14 *Motion was seconded.*

15          Motion carried.

16          The meeting was recessed at 7:48 p.m. and reconvened at 8 p.m.

17          Hansey opened nominations for the position of chair. Goldsmith nominated  
18 Sutter; the nomination was seconded. Gardner nominated Polinder; the nomination was  
19 seconded. The nominations were closed. Sutter and Polinder detailed their backgrounds  
20 in meeting management and participation.

21          The Clerk called the roll; the vote was seven for Sutter, six for Polinder.<sup>1</sup>

22          Hansey declared that Sutter was elected chair.

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23          <sup>1</sup>Results of the roll call vote for the position of chair follow: Beech, Elenbaas,  
24 Goldsmith, Hansey, Radke, Smith, and Sutter cast votes for Sutter. Gardner, McLeod,  
25 Polinder, Scrimsher, Unger and Stender cast votes for Polinder. Ahrens and Frederick  
26 were absent.

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1 V. PERMANENT CHAIR TAKES OVER

2 Hansey passed the gavel to Sutter. Sutter made some opening remarks.

3 VI. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR BY ROLL CALL VOTE

4 Sutter opened nominations for the position of vice chair. Radke nominated  
5 Elenbaas. The nomination was seconded. Stender nominated Unger. The nomination  
6 was seconded. The nominations were closed. Elenbaas and Unger detailed their  
7 backgrounds in meeting management and participation.

8 The Clerk called the roll; the vote was seven for Elenbaas and six for Unger.<sup>2</sup>

9 Sutter declared that Elenbaas was elected vice-chair.

10 VII. ELECTION OF SECRETARY BY ROLL CALL VOTE

11 Sutter opened nominations for the position of secretary. Smith nominated  
12 Goldsmith; the nomination was seconded. The nominations were closed.

13 *Elenbaas moved that the Commission cast a ballot of acclamation.*

14 By roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

15 Sutter declared that Goldsmith was elected secretary.

16 IX. DISCUSSION OF FACILITATOR ROLE - BOB WOODS

17 Bob Woods, Council Budget and Program Analyst, explained his position with the  
18 Council and his appointment by the Council to serve the Charter Review Commission as  
19 facilitator or in whatever other capacity the Commission may wish. He reviewed a  
20 notebook of materials he prepared for the Commission.

21 X. DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION BUDGET AND STAFFING - BOB WOODS

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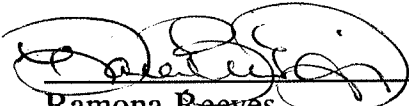
22 <sup>2</sup>Results of the roll call vote for the position of vice chair follow: Beech, Elenbaas,  
23 Goldsmith, Hansey, Radke, Smith and Sutter cast votes for Elenbaas. Gardner, McLeod,  
24 Polinder, Scrimsher, Unger and Stender cast votes for Unger. Ahrens and Frederick  
25 were absent.

1 Items suggested for the next meeting's agenda include: Budget review, scheduling  
2 of community meetings, individuals' areas of interest relating to the charter (perhaps  
3 accomplished through a brain-storming session), possible creation of subcommittees or  
4 an executive board (Smith expressed opposition to the proposal of an executive board),  
5 procedural issues, open session (to receive public comment), and how input will be  
6 received from public agencies or governmental representatives (Sutter indicated this  
7 would be included in the procedural portion of the meeting).

8 XII. ADJOURN

9 The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

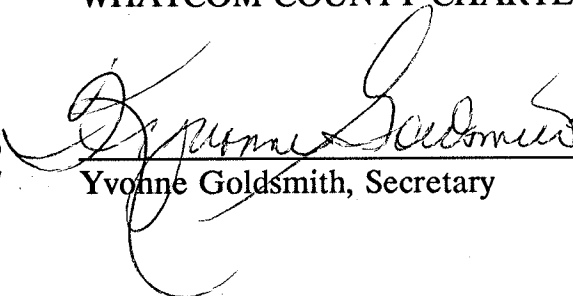
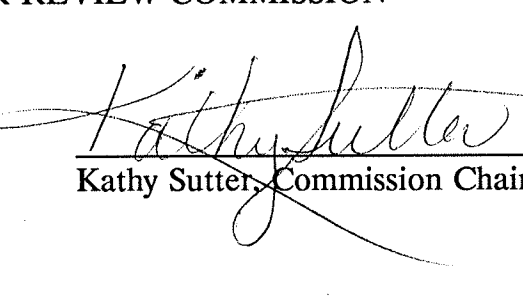
10 Respectfully submitted,

11  for  
12 Ramona Reeves  
13 Acting Recording Secretary

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15 WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

16    
17 Yvonne Goldsmith, Secretary Kathy Sutter, Commission Chair