

**Whatcom County
Charter Review Commission
Meeting Minutes**

January 18, 1995

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON KATHY SUTTER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Whatcom County Council Committee Room, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham by Chairperson Kathy Sutter.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Keith Ahrens
Danna Beech
Joe Elenbaas
Karen Frederick
Georgia Gardner
Yvonne Goldsmith
Don Hansey
Darlene McLeod
Ron Polinder
Ray Radke
Mary Scrimsher
Orphalee Smith
Mary Stender (arrived late)
Kathy Sutter
Terry Unger

Absent:

None

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes from the January 5, 1995 Meeting

Because of the length of the minutes, Chairperson Sutter waived the reading of the minutes.

Polinder moved to approve of the minutes as presented.

Goldsmith amended the motion by changing "Absent" to "Absent, but excused" under the roll call section of the minutes.

1 The motion, as amended, carried 14 - 0 with Stender absent.

2 III. Open Session

3 No members of the public spoke at open session.

4 IV. Budget Review

5 Polinder moved that the Chair and Darlene McLeod be given the responsibility of
6 submitting a nomination of one to the Charter Review Commission for the appointment of
7 secretary.

8 Polinder amended his motion to include Goldsmith in the interview and selection
9 process.

10 Motion carried 14 - 0 with Stender absent.

11 Elenbaas moved to limit the expenditure in the secretarial area to \$2,500.

12 Motion carried 14 - 0 with Stender absent.

13 Polinder moved to defer budget preparation to Bob Woods and Orphalee Smith with
14 the notion that the information sharing section be left open-ended at this time, to be
5 discussed later.

16 [Clerk's note: Mary Stender arrived at this point in the meeting.]

17 Motion carried unanimously.

18 V. Procedures Discussion

19 The following issues regarding **information gathering**/meetings were discussed:

- 20 1. Should the public, County employees and elected officials all be included at
21 meetings, or should separate meetings be scheduled for each group?
- 22 2. Should special invitations be sent out?
- 23 3. Will meetings with the public be limited to specific, pre-determined topics, or
24 will each meeting allow the public to speak on any issue?
- 25 4. Should meetings be primarily a worksession, primarily for information
26 gathering or a combination of the two?
- 27 5. Should meetings for specific areas or topics be sprinkled throughout the
28 meeting schedule?
- 29 6. Should meetings be scheduled by geographical location?

1 Beech moved to schedule at least four public, information gathering meetings in the
2 beginning, and then four public meetings in the end.

3 [Clerk's note: the following portion of the meeting will be a verbatim transcript,
4 because the intent of the discussion was unclear to the clerk.]

5 GOLDSMITH: On your motion, are these just information gathering meetings, is what
6 you're asking for, with the four sites? And if so, what four sites did
7 you have in mind?

8 BEECH: It was not site specific, because I figured somebody would say, "Well,
9 I want one in the foothills," and somebody wants one in Lynden and
10 Ferndale, you already offered, and probably one up in Blaine. . .

11 UNGER: I think what she said was, "Four, plus or minus, at meeting locations
12 to be determined by the Chair and submitted to the group for its
13 approval." Isn't that what you. . .? That's what Danna said.

14 ELENBAAS: And I'll second that.

15 [This ends the verbatim portion of the minutes.]

16 Unger moved to amend the motion to authorize the Chair to appoint either a
17 committee of two or three volunteers or employees to help establish the meetings.

18 Motion to amend failed for lack of a second.

19 Main motion carried unanimously.

20 **Subcommittees**

21 Gardner moved to not form formal subcommittees at this time, but leave the option
22 open for later consideration.

23 Motion carried unanimously.

24 Chairperson Sutter called for a five minute recess at 8:25 p.m.

1 [After a five minute break, the meeting was reconvened by Chairperson Sutter.]

2 VI. Brainstorming Session

3 Elenbaas moved that this body approve the Charter as written and recommend no
4 changes to the county voters.

5 Hansey raised a point of order regarding the motion.

6 Chairperson Sutter ruled the motion out of order.

7 [Clerk's note: see attached recap sheet for specific brainstorming issues.]

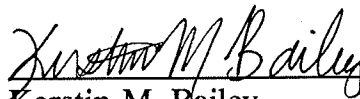
8 VII. Discussion of Next Agenda

9 Items to be included on next week's agenda: roll call, approval of minutes, open
10 session, budget review, prioritization of issues, recommendation for secretary, scheduling of
11 four meetings and discussion of some specific issues.

12 VIII. Adjourn

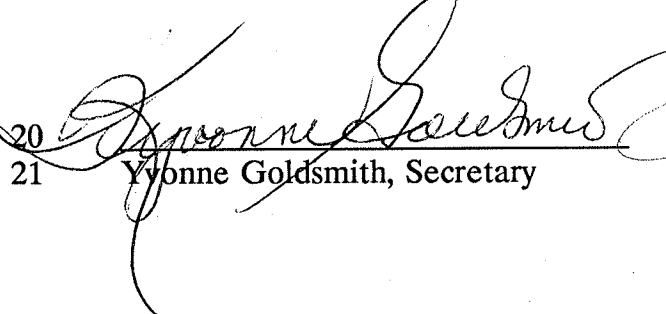
13 The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

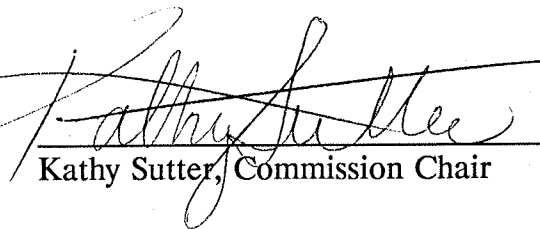
14 Respectfully submitted,

15 
16 Kerstin M. Bailey
17 Acting Recording Secretary

18 _____

19 WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

20 
21 Yvonne Goldsmith, Secretary


Kathy Sutter, Commission Chair