



A place where families and businesses thrive.

**Charter Review Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**August 30, 2023
Zoom & Community Auditorium**

Minutes approved by CRC on September 13, 2023

1. Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Ashley Driscoll, City Attorney, Joyce Phillips (staff liaison), Isaac Echeverria, Elysha Johnson, Dale Thaler, LaAna Littlefield, Wolanda Groombridge, Bryan Dennis, Tammi McLaughlin, Adolph “Val” Valfre, Kate MacDonald

Absent: Tacy Steele, Nina Davis

2. Public Comment: N/A

3. Consent Agenda: Items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be adopted with a single motion, without separate discussion. Committee members who wish to remove an item from the Consent Agenda may do so prior to the motion to approve the item(s). Any item(s) removed from the Consent Agenda will be discussed and acted upon following the approval of the remaining Consent Agenda item(s).

1. Approve/review meeting minutes from August 16, 2023 meeting - approved

4. Additions/Deletions: None.

5. Discussion Items – Meeting decorum was presented and reviewed.

a) Identify specific concerns with the council description (Section 7)

- A round table discussion ensued, with each committee member polled for their ideas and concerns regarding this topic. Many members had the same thought process and were in agreement regarding equal representation.

b) Forest Grove voter data review

- A statistical analysis of the past five years of voter participation and a geographical map identifying voting precincts and City quadrants was presented and discussed.

c) Wards – compare and contrast:

- City Attorney Ashley Driscoll presented the focused topics for discussion:
 - o Do we want wards?
 - o Are we affecting change?
 - o Common challenges among minority groups
 - o What if no candidates apply within specific geography?

The above items were

d) Wards pros and cons:

- City Attorney Ashley Driscoll explained the ward elections' four options
 1. Councilors nominated by ward, but voted on at large (everyone votes on all the councilors, each ward has one or more dedicated representatives from that ward)
 2. Councilors nominated by ward, voted on only by ward (i.e one only votes on the councilor in their own ward)
 3. Some councilors nominated by ward, some at large, all voting at large
 4. Some councilors nominated by ward, voted on by ward, others at large and voted on at large

Factors in Drawing Ward Boundaries

- Legal overview
 - o U.S. Constitution
 - o Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - o Oregon law, ORS 188.010
- General Criteria
 - o Equal Population Requirement → objective
 - No ward can be more than 10% larger than others (can be smaller)
 - o Factors a local government needs to consider → subjective
 - Contiguous
 - Equal population – actual population or registered voters
 - Geography
 - Political subdivisions (i.e. counties, school districts)
 - Transportation links
 - Not divide communities of common interest

- Can't intentionally dilute minority voting or favor a political party or any person
- There can be many different configurations that meet these criteria
- How often?
 - At least every 10 years after the census (as population grows)

Who Makes the Decision?

- Options
 - Council makes a decision
 - Committee reviews and makes recommendations to council
 - Subcommittee to make recommendations to council
 - City staff recommends to council
 - Outside consultant recommends to council

A vote was called for moving forward on creating wards or districts. Unanimously decided to not move forward on further discussion of creating electoral wards for the City of Forest Grove. A report will be created for submission to council for their consideration.

e) **Next sections for review**

- Section 3
 - Mayor
 - Council President
 - Quorum
 - Number of councilors

f) **Meeting Schedule**

- Discuss future meeting dates at the next meeting.

6. Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next CRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Additional meeting dates were decided for September 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Phillips, Staff Liaison

