

**Charter Commission  
Operations Meeting  
June 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.  
Minutes**

**Attendance**

<b>Commissioners</b>					
Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Amira Streeter	X		Hanna Osman	X	
Andrew Speer	X		Karol Collymore		X
Angela Jones	X		Melanie Billings-Yun	X	
Anthony Castaneda	X		Raahi Reddy		X
Becca Uherbelau		X	Robin Ye	X	
Bryan Williams Lewis	X		Salomé Chimuku	X	
Candace Avalos	X		Steven Phan	X	
Dave Galat		X	Vadim Mozyrsky	X	
Debbie Kitchin	X		Yasmin Ibarra	X	
Debra Porta	X		Vacancy		

<b>Staff Present</b>			
Julia Meier	Allison Brown (JLA)	Ariella Frishberg (JLA)	Sofia Alvarez-Castro
Laura Oppenheimer	Cathy Bless	Ashlie Grundy	Diana Shiplet
Maja Haium			

**Welcome**

Allison welcomed the group. Co-Chair Chimuku gave an overview of the agenda and welcomed the Engagement and Communications Coordinator, Sofia Alvarez-Castro. Sofia introduced herself and provided group some information about her background.

**Report Outs**

Commissioner Ye provided an overview of the discussions from the Community engagement committee. Want to include approximately 10 community organizations in future discussions, in addition to recruiting other community members for specific sub-committee work. They drafted charges for two subcommittees and had lots of conversation around voting power of subcommittee members. The committee agreed that only Charter Commissioners have voting power in subcommittee meetings.

Group discussed the roles of subcommittee members, both commissioners and public participants.

Commissioner Phan provided an overview of the June 9 meeting with City Equity Managers. He informed the group that on July 14 there will be an information session with Maja Haium and Linda Law from the City Attorney’s office regarding authority of city, county, and metro.

**Committee Business**

Approval of meeting summaries – Group gave thumbs up to summaries for the February 2, March 4, March 9, March 16, March 22, March 30, April 6, April 21, April 27, April 29, May 4, May 6, May 10 (two meetings), May 11, May 12, May 19, May 20, May 21, and June 3 meetings, as presented.

Absentee voting – Julia stated that after the last meeting with the discussion of absentee voting it was determined that the Oregon state Attorney General manual prohibits absentee voting. Voting by electronic means is allowable. She has updated the bylaws to reflect this clarification. As stated earlier, subcommittees may have members of the public participating but only commissioners are allowed to vote.

Group confirmed that bylaws are able to be revisited at any time if a majority of the commission feels it is necessary. They discussed use of modified consensus to avoid tie votes in subcommittee work.

*Motion to approve the bylaws as presented. Voice vote: All ayes. Bylaws approved.*

- Staff member Haium arrived 6:30 p.m.
- Commissioner Mozyrsky departed meeting 6:31 p.m.

### **Presentation and Discussion: Values**

Co-Chair Chimuku provided overview of topic to be discussed in breakout rooms – what’s important to each commissioner and how can we have a shared understanding of each other’s values?

Julia provided overview of previous discussions around values and reminded group that the next operations meeting will be a chance to have a longer discussion around decision making.

Allison stated that in order to give commissioners a starting point for discussing values, staff have provided information about the City’s core values. Cathy Bless, Human Resources Director for the City, provided a history of how the values were developed and approved by Council.

Comm. Jones stated that accountability has been mentioned frequently in recent information sessions. Is accountability meant to be a value in itself or is it intended to imply a way for City values to be used, implement, and followed? Cathy stated that there is lots of conversation recently around how to hold city staff at all levels (including elected officials) accountable to the values, while recognizing historic inequities and lack of trust from many of Portland’s communities. The idea is that by holding everyone accountable to the values we can improve internally and externally.

Group discussed if there are other city-wide values statement, perhaps around homelessness or environmental issues. Cathy stated that those are more Council priorities than core City values.

Commissioners broke into small groups to discuss how the City Core Values resonate with them, if there are things missing or if any of the values stated are unnecessary to the commission’s work. Groups reported back after their discussions and highlighted the following:

- Group needs to be conscious of giving equity to voices from all locations in Portland – this seems to be covered in the value of equity
- Responsiveness should be a value – there is a need for actionable values
- The term, “well-functioning” has historically been weaponized against disabled people and communities of color.
- Anti-racism appears to be a given for this group
- Communication is one of the most important values for the group – but it must be a two-way street between the commission and the community

- Accountability may need to be added to clarify who and what the commission (or the City) is accountable to

Group generally gave thumbs up to Julia, Allison, and the Co-Chairs working to refine the values for consideration at an upcoming operations meeting.

### **Discussion: Subcommittee Charters**

Julia provided an overview of the key points of the two potential subcommittee charters; one for Form of Government and one for Council Elections. She discussed the timeline and scope of work for each proposed subcommittee and highlighted the need for community participation in the subcommittee work.

*Motion to approve the charters for a Form of Government and a Council Elections subcommittee, as proposed. Voice vote: All ayes. Both charters approved.*

Commission members stated in the chat if they have interest at this time in participating on either subcommittee. Allison reminded the group that there will be other subcommittees too, and that decisions about subcommittee membership will be made at a future meeting so this will not be final opportunity to state their interest.

### **Next Steps**

Co-Chair Chimuku outlined next steps and topics anticipated to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

### **Meeting adjourned, 7:45 p.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Diana Shiplet, Executive Assistant to the CAO and CFO

### Meeting Chat

18:03:09 From Salomé Chimuku (She/Her) : Amira is coming. But running five minutes late  
 18:03:48 From Salomé Chimuku (She/Her) : If we meet in person, spoiler alert, I am tall lol.  
 18:04:17 From Angela Benintendi Jones : In person, there isn't a box around my head  
 18:04:29 From Ariella Frishberg, she/her, facilitation support : XD  
 18:04:44 From Melanie Billings-Yun (she) : In person, I  
 18:04:45 From Hanna Osman : Thank you for that Diana!  
 18:05:02 From Melanie Billings-Yun (she) : In person I;m really young!  
 18:05:10 From Angela Benintendi Jones : Melanie wins  
 18:05:17 From Robin Ye, Rep Pham, he/him : I think we just have a slim quorum  
 18:26:36 From Robin Ye, Rep Pham, he/him : we work via modified consensus anyway, so you are unlikely to be surprised by a vote  
 18:26:55 From Steven Phan (He/Him) : That's a good point Comm. Ye  
 18:27:04 From Comm. Chimuku (She/Her) : ^+1  
 18:27:08 From Debra Porta : Agreed Commissioner Ye  
 18:30:08 From Hanna Osman : I am here  
 18:30:15 From Hanna Osman : I don't know if you said Ms or Mr  
 18:30:26 From Vadim Mozyrsky : I need to leave the meeting early today, after this vote. Looks like we still have a quorum, so I'll catch up on the rest of the meeting online. Thanks everyone.  
 18:30:40 From Hanna Osman : Yes

18:39:23 From Comm. Streeter : Apologies - where in the packet are the values? I don't see them in my email

18:40:54 From Diana Shiplet (she/her) Staff Member : Values: Anti-racism, Equity, Transparency, Communication, Collaboration, Fiscal Responsibility

18:40:59 From Allison Brown, she/her, facilitator : Whoops, I might have misspoke. Julia will email them now, but you can also see them here (just with the wonky resolution language): [https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bhr/article/763427#:~:text=testimony%20and%20discussion\)-,Adopt%20Anti%2DRacism%2C%20Equity%2C%20Transparency%2C%20Communication%2C%20Collaboration,%2C%20policies%2C%20practices%20and%20procedures](https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bhr/article/763427#:~:text=testimony%20and%20discussion)-,Adopt%20Anti%2DRacism%2C%20Equity%2C%20Transparency%2C%20Communication%2C%20Collaboration,%2C%20policies%2C%20practices%20and%20procedures) .

18:41:10 From Comm. Streeter : Thank you

18:42:30 From Ashlie Grundy : Here is another view: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bhr/article/765248>

18:42:38 From Comm. Streeter : Many thanks

19:12:19 From Melanie Billings-Yun (she) : I liked your point, Debra

19:19:00 From Debra Porta : Love the addition of "community" Bullet #2 under Communication

19:21:12 From Julia Meier (she/her), Project Manager : brb

19:32:11 From Robin Ye, he/him : you can say "50% + 1" or "simple majority"

19:35:46 From Robin Ye, he/him : Motion to Vote!

19:35:54 From Debbie Kitchin : these charters look fine to me!

19:38:54 From Debra Porta : Productive!

19:39:22 From Candace Avalos : I wanna join both.

19:39:31 From Comm. Streeter : Form of government only plz

19:39:34 From Melanie Billings-Yun (she) : Form of govt

19:39:39 From Steven Phan (He/Him) : Form of government

19:39:40 From Robin Ye, he/him : City Council Elections

19:39:49 From Debbie Kitchin : Form of govt.

19:39:53 From Angela Benintendi Jones : Form of govt, please

19:40:01 From Yasmin Ibarra (she/her) : city council elections

19:40:39 From Debra Porta : City Council Elections

19:40:47 From Comm. Lewis (He/him) : both

19:40:48 From Robin Ye, he/him : Anthony, join us

19:40:58 From Andrew Speer : both

19:41:08 From Anthony Castaneda : City Council Elections!

19:41:15 From Robin Ye, he/him : eyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy

19:42:16 From Candace Avalos : I'll be there.

19:42:20 From Melanie Billings-Yun (she) : Thanks for the fast meeting! I'm starving!

19:43:00 From Robin Ye, he/him : I'm expecting someone to do a Steve Jobs Apple iPhone level pitch of their committee idea

19:43:09 From Comm. Streeter : One quick question - will we discuss these subcommittees more, like who is chair and how the subs will bring the info back to everyone?

19:43:29 From Comm. Streeter : Sorry I'm tired ---

19:43:44 From Comm. Streeter : on 6/28?

19:44:00 From Robin Ye, he/him : I think they want people to know what the options are before we finalize committees and then finalize leadership

19:44:11 From Comm. Streeter : ok

19:44:47 From Comm. Streeter : Lots of hopes!