

**Whatcom County  
Charter Review Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

July 6, 1995

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Board Room, Bellingham City Hall, by Chairperson Kathy Sutter.

**II. Roll Call**

Present:

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

Absent, but excused:

Georgia Gardner

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair added "Final Approval of Proposed Amendments" just before "Signing of Letter of Transmittal to the County Council".

Beech added "Discussion of Removed Amendment" before "Final Approval of Proposed Amendments".

Stender moved that we rearrange #7 and #6, and we put six after seven.

Motion carried by consent.

Ahrens moved to approve the agenda, as amended.

Goldsmith seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes from the June 28, 1995 Meeting

Goldsmith moved to approve the minutes.

Frederick seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Open Session - Public Comments

No members of the public spoke at open session.

VI. Discussion of Publication/Public Information

{Clerk's note: Polinder arrived at this point in the meeting.}

Polinder moved that we do a flier, very similar to the one that was done last time, and distribute it as broadly as possible.

McLeod seconded the motion.

{Clerk's note: Elenbaas arrived at this point in the meeting.}

By consent, the Commission amended the motion to have the fliers prepared and ready for distribution by August 12, 1995.

Main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

The Chair assigned individuals to prepare explanatory statements for each proposed amendment.

The Chair assigned Frederick, Hansey, and the Chair to form a subcommittee to develop the flier.

The Chair requested that individuals responsible for explanatory statements of each amendment fax them to the Chair by July 12, 1995.

The Chair asked for volunteers to discuss issues for the public. The Chair asked to do a press release of the final meeting and put a note in it that if anyone wants a speaker they should contact the Chair.

VII. Discussion of Removed Amendment

Goldsmith moved to suspend the rules in consideration of Amendment #11.

Frederick seconded the motion.

Motion failed, 9 - 5, with McLeod, Radke, Scrimsher, Stender, and Unger in favor.

Polinder moved to add that to the recommendation going to the Council.

Unger seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a majority.

VIII. Approval of Final Proposed Amendments

By consent, the Commission amended Amendment #4, Line 32, by changing "legislative and executive" to "executive and legislative".

By consent, the Commission amended Amendment #11 by moving "There shall be no filing fee nor shall there be a primary." in Line 226 to the end of Line 224, after "each Council district."

By consent, the Commission approved the recommendations in the memo from County Budget & Program Analyst, Bob Woods.

Smith moved that we suspend the rules on this issue.

{Clerk's note: "this issue" refers to Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Randall J. Watts' recommendation for Amendment #8.}

Elenbaas seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 12 - 2, with Stender and Unger opposed.

Smith moved that we change the words in Section 8.22 to be consistent with the highlighted words in Sections 5.40 and 5.60.

Elenbaas seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ahrens moved to approve the Final Proposed Amendments, as amended, for final submission to the County Council.

Goldsmith seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 12 - 2, with McLeod and Stender opposed.

IX. Signing of Letter of Transmittal to the County Council

The majority of the Commission signed the letter of transmittal to the County Council. McLeod and Stender did not sign the letter.

X. Discussion of Next Meeting and Agenda

Frederick moved to meet again on the first Wednesday of September, which is the sixth.

Beech seconded the motion.

Motion carried 13 - 1, with Scrimsher opposed.

Items to be on the September 6 Meeting agenda: Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Open Session, Discussion of Tabled Motion, Discussion of Next Agenda, Other Business, and Adjourn.

XI. Other Business

The Chair announced that there will not be a meeting on Saturday, July 8, 1995.

McLeod noted that she voted against the Final Proposed Amendments because she is very opposed to four or five of the amendments. She does not think that they are in the best interest of Whatcom County.

Hansey asked about staffing for the next meetings. County Budget & Program Analyst Bob Woods noted that the only difficulty might be the need to transfer some funds.

Elenbaas thanked Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Randall J. Watts, County Budget & Program Analyst Bob Woods, and Recording Secretary Kerstin M. Bailey for their efforts.

Unger noted that the Commission, as individuals should not feel bound to support all of the Amendments that were forwarded by a majority. The County will get the best results, if everyone speaks their opinion.

XII. Adjourn

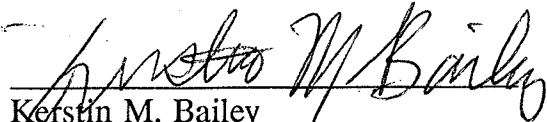
Smith moved to adjourn until September 6 or on call from the Chair.

Frederick seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kerstin M. Bailey  
Recording Secretary

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WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

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Yvonne Goldsmith, Secretary

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Kathy Sutter, Commission Chair