



Committee Members in attendance:

Beverly Silva, Chair
Mario Bouza
Robin Burdick
Hosam Haggag
Saskia Feain

Jeannie Mahan**
Howard Myers
Stephen Ricossa
Tino Silva

Absent:

Steve Lodge, Vice Chair
Mary Elizabeth Hanna-Weir
Brian Lowery
Jodi Muirhead

Ahmad Rafah
Noelani Sallings
Joe Sweeney

Staff in attendance:

Rajeev Batra, Acting City Manager
Sheila Tucker, Asst. City Manager
Rod Diridon, Jr., City Clerk

Julia Hill, Asst. City Attorney
Cris Evans, Exec. Asst. to the City Attorney

Matters for Council Action: None.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Silva called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and noted that there was not a quorum present as there were only eight members in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2016 & April 21, 2016 Meetings.** This item was skipped initially as there was not a quorum to approve the Minutes. After Member Mahan arrived late, the item was discussed. It was asked that the Minutes of April 7, 2016, be changed as follows:

on page 3 of 5, paragraph 1, line 4, to correct the word "would" to "could"; and,
on page 3 of 5, paragraph 4, last line, change "." to "." and remove, "Salary setting, Salary Setting Commission and districting."

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND PASSED BY A 6-0 VOTE, WITH 3 MEMBERS ABSTAINING THAT COMMITTEE APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2016 MINUTES, WITH TWO NOTED CHANGES.

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND PASSED BY A 7-0 VOTE, WITH 2 MEMBERS ABSTAINING THAT COMMITTEE APPROVE THE APRIL 21, 2016 MINUTES.
3. **Report from Demographer, Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc.** Assistant City Attorney Julia Hill introduced Jeanne Gobalet, Ph.D., who is a demographer that has prior experience working for the City of Santa Clara and examining different aspects of Santa Clara's population in relation to the election processes. Dr. Gobalet presented a PowerPoint

**arrived late/left early

presentation, covering Santa Clara's boundaries, voting patterns, protected groups, populations, and trends related to Asian and Non-Hispanic White expansions in different areas of the City. She pointed to trends in expanding boundaries and significant shifts in the Asian v. White populations. Dr. Gobalet answered questions throughout her presentation related to the demographics, the CVRA and the FVRA. The Committee discussed what the Charter mandates related to elections and what the Courts have emphasized related to election processes. The City Clerk talked about incumbents/returning City Council members "looking" the same to electors; inquiring of Dr. Gobalet if she could provide data about voters near Levi's® Stadium and how they vote (whether they vote along racial lines or because they are impacted by Stadium policy decisions). The City Clerk also informed the Committee that Section 903 of the Charter gives the City Council power to appoint and grant compensation to a City Clerk if the elected City Clerk cannot perform the duties of his/her office. The City Clerk also displayed an award for the "Pathway to Citizenship" program. Member Haggag indicated his disappointment to staff and Dr. Gobalet that the questions the Committee forwarded for Dr. Gobalet to focus on were not addressed in her presentation.

4. **Review and Approve Revised Language Recommended by Committee on Council Compensation and Convening a Salary Setting Commission.**

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND PASSED BY A 9-0 VOTE, THAT COMMITTEE APPROVE THE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY IN HIS MEMO DATED MAY 5, 2016.

5. **Timeline to Council for Ballot Measure(s) for November Election.** The City Clerk distributed a memo dated May 4, 2016, that delineates Committee dates and deadlines for the upcoming election cycle. He spoke about the need for the Committee to note that the time for submitting items for the November election is rapidly approaching.

6. **Committee Review of Charter Elements Relevant to: a) Compliance with Current Laws and b) Considered Best Practices.** Chair Silva discussed the table of suggested sections to be reviewed and passed out a rating sheet for the Members to fill out, using a Cumulative and Ranked Vote process to achieve the top five issues that the Committee would focus on; she invited the Members to discuss their pros/cons on each topic, giving them each one minute. The Members turned in their rating sheets to the Chair who then called out the numbers to Member Haggag, who was entering the numbers in an electronic format, shown on-screen in the front of the room. The votes were tallied and the top five issues are:

No. 3, "Council Term Limits"

No. 5, "Council and Mayor Seats Vacated During a Term & Qualifications for Vacancy Candidates"


No. 17, "Process for Open Space Transitions"

No. 1, "Require Fair Market Value for Sale or Lease of City Property" and,

No. 8, "Special Meetings."

7. **Topics for Future Meetings: a) Committee Discussion re: District Voting Concerns and Santa Clara County's Voter Registrar's Needs, b) Review of Possible Presenters/Resources, c) Presentation of California Voting Rights Act [CVRA] and d) Discussion and Final Review of Alternative Voting Systems.** Chair Silva asked that at the next meeting the City Attorney speak about "Districting" and compare pros/cons of different voting systems.

8. **Public Presentations**. David Kadlecek spoke about racially polarized voting, protected classes and that Districts are not the only remedy that the City can use.
9. **Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Prepared by: 
CRIS EVANS
Executive Assistant to the City Attorney