

**The Charter Commission Public Hearing
Thursday, July 16, 2009**

The Charter Commission is interested in your comments! Our focus this evening is primarily on learning what problems you think need to be solved through changes in the Charter and what issues you think the Charter Commission should work on. You are welcome, however, to comment on any aspect of the Commission's work or process. You may speak at the microphone and/or use this worksheet to write your ideas and turn them in at the end of the meeting.

Thank you for coming and being interested in your city's governance.

I. Worksheet on Problems to Solve and Issues to Address

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The following are problems that individual Commissioners think need to be dealt with and solved through this Charter process. Do you agree or disagree?

Leadership and vision:

- Lack of a clear city vision
- Lack of continuity of city governance
- Perceived lack of accountability both political and administrative
- Stalled projects and inaction and stalled planning; shared executive function or inappropriate division of executive function
- Systemic dilution of executive power
- Lack of authority to speak on behalf of the city
- Lack of regionally coherent action
- Responsiveness to external change

City School relationship:

- ✓ • Perceived lack of control of the school budget
- ✓ • Overlap of jurisdiction between the city and the schools
- ✓ • School Board is an oversight body, but is elected which creates misunderstanding of expectation
- ✓ • Need more coordination and collaboration between school system and the city government
- ✓ • Ability to be efficient with resources

Engaging citizens and local elections:

- ✓ • Significant portions of the population that are disengaged
- ✓ • Does our system maximize access and engagement across populations
- ✓ • Changing demographics
- ✓ • Lack of a level playing field for people running for election city wide because of cost
- ✓ • Perceptions of disparities between regions of the city
- ~~✗~~ • Cultivating qualified candidates

Other problems:

- ~~✗~~ • How the city does business with businesses
- ✓ • Outdated and inconsistent provisions; housekeeping issues
- ~~✗~~ • Governing system that encourages mediocrity
- ~~✗~~ • Do we have a system that encourages and supports professionalism for staff

Your suggestions:

The following are issues that the individual Commissioners think should be considered as part of this process. Do you agree or disagree?

Leadership and vision:

- Look at roles of the executive functions of the Manager and the council; are those still appropriate? What should the division be?
- Elected mayor
- Length of term of office for the Mayor
- Rules for setting a city plan
- Term limits
- Whether powers of mayors should be increased and what are the checks and balances to compliment that

City School relationship:

- How we insure coordination and collaboration between the School system and City Government
- Different structures for selecting the School Committee
- Question of super majority to amend the school budget
- Ways to make city and school finances more efficient

Engaging citizens and local elections:

- Look at district size and number of districts and at large seats
- Clean election funding for citywide issues
- City wide election of district councilors
- Expanding voting rights to legal permanent residents
- Instant run off voting

Other issues:

- Should we review our current bonding parameters

Your suggestions:

II. Any additional comments or suggestions on the Commissions work and process.

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- Significant portions of the population that are disengaged
- Does our system maximize access and engagement across populations
- ✓• Changing demographics
 - Lack of a level playing field for people running for election city wide because of cost
- ✓• Perceptions of disparities between regions of the city
 - Cultivating qualified candidates

Other problems:

- ✓• How the city does business with businesses *perception of too many backroom deals*
- Outdated and inconsistent provisions; housekeeping issues
- Governing system that encourages mediocrity
- Do we have a system that encourages and supports professionalism for staff

Your suggestions:

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- ✓• Look at roles of the executive functions of the Manager and the council; are those still appropriate? What should the division be?
- ✓• Elected mayor *Yes please*
- ✓• Length of term of office for the Mayor
- ✓• Rules for setting a city plan
- ✗• Term limits
- ✓• Whether powers of mayors should be increased and what are the checks and balances to compliment that

City School relationship:

- ✓• How we insure coordination and collaboration between the School system and City Government
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- ✗• City wide election of district councilors
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Your suggestions:

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 - Do we have a system that encourages and supports professionalism for staff

Your suggestions:

add: ✓ Clear responsibilities with respect to public safety policy, ^{objectives} methods ~~and~~ procedures and administration

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- Does our system maximize access and engagement across populations
- Changing demographics
- Lack of a level playing field for people running for election city wide because of cost - *Public Financing* ☺
- ✓ • Perceptions of disparities between regions of the city
- Cultivating qualified candidates

Other problems:

- How the city does business with businesses - *Don't forget; we*
- Outdated and inconsistent provisions; housekeeping issues *just need a mayor*
- Governing system that encourages mediocrity *recognition as a*
- ? • Do we have a system that encourages and supports professionalism for staff *great place to start a business.*

Your suggestions:

✓ = yes ☺

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Leadership and vision:

- Look at roles of the executive functions of the Manager and the council; are those still appropriate? What should the division be?
- ✓ • Elected mayor
- ✓ • Length of term of office for the Mayor - 3 yrs
- Rules for setting a city plan
- Term limits - 7 NO! Bad outcomes happen.
- Whether powers of mayors should be increased and what are the checks and balances to compliment that

City School relationship:

- How we insure coordination and collaboration between the School system and City Government
- Different structures for selecting the School Committee
- Question of super majority to amend the school budget NO! bad precedent
- Ways to make city and school finances more efficient

Engaging citizens and local elections:

- Look at district size and number of districts and at large seats
- ✓ • Clean election funding for citywide issues YES!
- City wide election of district councilors - w/ ranked voting YES
- ✓ • Expanding voting rights to legal permanent residents
- ✓ ✓ • Instant run off voting

Other issues:

- Should we review our current bonding parameters

Your suggestions:

Be careful of the blog idea; it will look like the PPH comments and will be populated w/ ppl outside of Portland.

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- Ways to make city and school finances more efficient

Engaging citizens and local elections:

- Look at district size and number of districts and at large seats
- ✓ Clean election funding for citywide issues
- City wide election of district councilors
- ✓✓✓ Expanding voting rights to legal permanent residents
- ✓ Instant run off voting

Other issues:

- Should we review our current bonding parameters

Your suggestions:

To tie voting rights to citizenship
denies permanent residents any say in the
issues, including economic issues, which affect
their lives. Many pay taxes without representation
which is tyranny.

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Leadership and vision:

- ✓ • Lack of a clear city vision *Agree*
- ✓ • Lack of continuity of city governance *Agree*
- ✓ • Perceived lack of accountability both political and administrative *Agree*
- ✓ • Stalled projects and inaction and stalled planning; shared executive function or inappropriate division of executive function *Agree*
- ✓ • Systemic dilution of executive power *Agree*
- ✓ • Lack of authority to speak on behalf of the city *Agree*
- ✓ • Lack of regionally coherent action *Agree*
- ✓ • Responsiveness to external change *Agree*

~~or internal change~~

City School relationship:

- ✓ • Perceived lack of control of the school budget *Agree*
- ✓ • Overlap of jurisdiction between the city and the schools *Agree*
- X • School Board is an oversight body, but is elected which creates misunderstanding of expectation *Disagree*
- ✓ • Need more coordination and collaboration between school system and the city government *Agree*
- ✓ • Ability to be efficient with resources *Agree*

Engaging citizens and local elections:

- ✓ • Significant portions of the population that are disengaged *Strongly agree*
- ✓ • Does our system maximize access and engagement across populations *Agree*
- ✓ • Changing demographics *Agree*
- ✓ • Lack of a level playing field for people running for election city wide because of cost *Agree*
- X • Perceptions of disparities between regions of the city *Disagree*
- X • Cultivating qualified candidates *Disagree*

Other problems:

- ✓ • How the city does business with businesses *Agree*
- ✓ • Outdated and inconsistent provisions; housekeeping issues *Agree*
- X • Governing system that encourages mediocrity *Disagree*
- X • Do we have a system that encourages and supports professionalism for staff *Disagree*

Your suggestions:

There is a lack of administrative accountability.
An elected mayor, with proper checks and balances (including election reforms like IRV and Clean Elections), will help make the executive accountable.

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Leadership and vision:

- ✓ • Look at roles of the executive functions of the Manager and the council; are those still appropriate? What should the division be? *Agree*
- ✓ • Elected mayor *Agree*
- ✓ • Length of term of office for the Mayor *Agree*
- X • Rules for setting a city plan *Disagree*
- ✓ • Term limits *Agree*
- ✓ • Whether powers of mayors should be increased and what are the checks and balances to compliment that *Agree*

City School relationship:

- ✓ • How we insure coordination and collaboration between the School system and City Government *Agree*
- X • Different structures for selecting the School Committee *Disagree*
- X • Question of super majority to amend the school budget *Disagree*
- ✓ • Ways to make city and school finances more efficient *Agree*

Engaging citizens and local elections:

- ✓ • Look at district size and number of districts and at large seats *Agree Strongly*
- ✓ • Clean election funding for citywide issues *Strongly agree*
- ✓ • City wide election of district councilors *Strongly disagree*
- ✓ • Expanding voting rights to legal permanent residents *Strongly agree*
- ✓ • Instant run off voting *Agree*

Other issues:

- ✓ • Should we review our current bonding parameters

Your suggestions:

This is an excellent opportunity to grow a more vibrant, diverse democracy. Immigrant voting rights, smaller districts, and clean Elections!

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- Lack of authority to speak on behalf of the city
- Lack of regionally coherent action — *NOT sure how charter can address unless as an aspirational goal*
- Responsiveness to external change

City School relationship:

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operation
a result of
MSR answer
to 9 not
DM

Your suggestions:

→ I feel there are symptoms of the lack of vision + leadership placing too much on manager who is also asked to respond to elected policy makers -

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Leadership and vision:

- A • Look at roles of the executive functions of the Manager and the council; are those still appropriate? What should the division be?
- A • Elected mayor → consider different structure options of executive branch → look at a continuum.
- D • Length of term of office for the Mayor
- Rules for setting a city plan
- D • Term limits
- A • Whether powers of mayors should be increased and what are the checks and balances to compliment that

City School relationship:

- A • How we insure coordination and collaboration between the School system and City Government
- D • Different structures for selecting the School Committee
- A • Question of super majority to amend the school budget
- A • Ways to make city and school finances more efficient + Accountable

Engaging citizens and local elections:

- D • Look at district size and number of districts and at large seats
- A • Clean election funding for citywide issues
- D • City wide election of district councilors
- D • Expanding voting rights to legal permanent residents → while I agree with considering this it maybe too divisive at this point in time
- A • Instant run off voting → this could really create a more harmonious less partisan election process that should be considered.

Other issues:

- A • Should we review our current bonding parameters

Your suggestions:

Set regular 8-10 yr charter commission to revisit these issues Regularly

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- ✓ • Lack of regionally coherent action
- ✓ • Responsiveness to external change
- LACK of follow-through - Vision → Policy → Implementation

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- ✓ • Significant portions of the population that are disengaged
- ✓ • Does our system maximize access and engagement across populations
- Changing demographics
- ? • Lack of a level playing field for people running for election city wide because of cost
- Perceptions of disparities between regions of the city
- ✓ • Cultivating qualified candidates

Leadership
Vision
engagement

Other problems:

- ✓ • How the city does business with businesses
- Outdated and inconsistent provisions; housekeeping issues
- ✓ • Governing system that encourages mediocrity
- ✓ • Do we have a system that encourages and supports professionalism for staff

Your suggestions:

- Lack of Follow through → Vision → Policy → Implementation
- Make our Comprehensive Planning process & Plan rigorous, meaningful, coherent.
- Develop a Visioning process on a 10yr basis to update Components of Comp plan & create Guiding principles for Policy - This would be more effective & engage more citizens than an elected mayor
- Accountability/Professionalism - preserve professionalism of staff, But strengthen oversight of staff - staff currently ~~has~~ has great autonomy (for better or worse) and ~~does~~ makes policy decisions w/ minimal oversight by elected officials
- All elected officials need resources to understand policy & oversee staff (time, money, Authority to set high expectations of staff Responsiveness)

II. Any additional comments or suggestions on the Commissions work and process.

for process

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The following are problems that individual Commissioners think need to be dealt with and solved through this Charter process. Do you agree or disagree?

Leadership and vision:

- Lack of a clear city vision
- Lack of continuity of city governance
- Perceived lack of accountability both political and administrative
- Stalled projects and inaction and stalled planning; shared executive function or inappropriate division of executive function
- Systemic dilution of executive power
- Lack of authority to speak on behalf of the city
- Lack of regionally coherent action
- Responsiveness to external change

City School relationship:

- ✓• Perceived lack of control of the school budget
- ✓• Overlap of jurisdiction between the city and the schools
- School Board is an oversight body, but is elected which creates misunderstanding of expectation
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Your suggestions:

The following are issues that the individual Commissioners think should be considered as part of this process. Do you agree or disagree?

Leadership and vision:

- ✓• Look at roles of the executive functions of the Manager and the council; are those still appropriate? What should the division be?
 - Elected mayor
 - Length of term of office for the Mayor
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- ✓• Whether powers of mayors should be increased and what are the checks and balances to compliment that

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- How we insure coordination and collaboration between the School system and City Government
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- ✓• Ways to make city and school finances more efficient

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- ✓✓• Look at district size and number of districts and at large seats
- ✓• Clean election funding for citywide issues
 - City wide election of district councilors
- ✓✓• Expanding voting rights to legal permanent residents
- ✓✓• Instant run off voting

Other issues:

- Should we review our current bonding parameters

Your suggestions:

Smaller and more districts - more councilors
Strongly in favor of instant run off voting
" " voting rights to all residents

II. Any additional comments or suggestions on the Commissions work and process.

Don't know enough about the mayor issue to have a position, but do have this hesitation -
I am in favor of greater democracy, and worry that a mayor would detract from that. First, it's a big election, pull a lot of attention to that horse race and away from issues, lots of \$ involved. Don't understand why the council can't just take back some of the power that has been given to the City Manager. I would rather see a larger council, representing smaller districts, perhaps with better processes to rein in and guide themselves. I am leery of an executive branch - so maybe I do have a position after all.

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Your suggestions:

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- Cultivating qualified candidates

↳ through meaningful involvement opportunities

Other problems:

- How the city does business with businesses
- Outdated and inconsistent provisions; housekeeping issues - *not for Charter*
- Governing system that encourages mediocrity
- Do we have a system that encourages and supports professionalism for staff

Your suggestions:

affirmative approach to comprehensive planning and growth management

The following are issues that the individual Commissioners think should be considered as part of this process. Do you agree or disagree?

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Your suggestions:

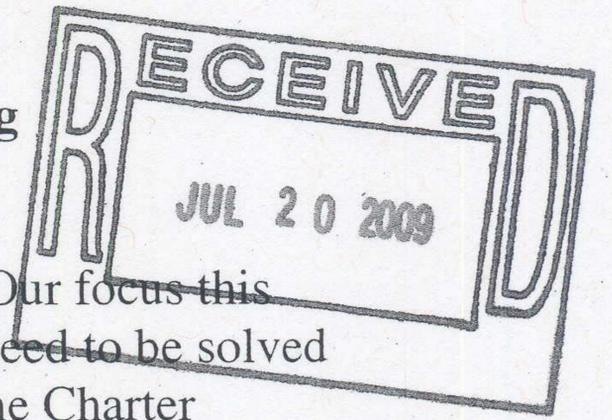
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*direct engagement of
immigrant populations
and of minors*

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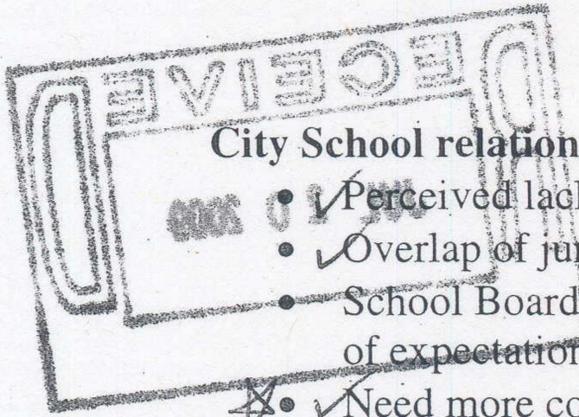
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Your suggestions:

Please address city/school relationship issues. Reiche Community Center is a microcosm of all that can go wrong when there is little or no city/school communication and/or collaboration. The needs of today's Reiche neighborhoods are just as great as they were in the 1970s, when more than 75 homes were razed in order to build a school and community center to provide needed opportunities, but neighborhood attempts to revitalize the center are frustrated at most every turn. The buck just keeps getting passed.

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Other issues:

- Should we review our current bonding parameters

Your suggestions:

Please reach out to neighborhood associations when attempting to engage the public. All are listed on the City's Living in Portland page.

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Thank you for serving. Best of luck with your work!

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