



Metropolitan Governance Task Force

January 17, 2024

9:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Rep. Frank Hornstein, Chair

Sen. Eric Pratt, Vice-Chair

Commissioner Karla Bigham

Sen. Julia Coleman

Mary Pattock

Commissioner Marion Greene

Rep. Ginny Klevorn

Renae Pereira-Webb

Rep. Mark Wiens

Sen. Scott Dibble

Professor Myron Orfield

Kristin Beckmann

Jeff Reed

Rep. Jon Koznick

Sen. Lindsey Port

Excused:

Mayor James Hovland

Call to Order:

Chair Hornstein called the Metropolitan Governance Task Force meeting to order at 9:19 AM. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Meeting Minutes:

Rep. Wiens moved to adopt the Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2024. The motion prevailed.

Task Force Discussion & Motions on Adopting a Problem Statement:

Mary Pattock moved to adopt the following problem statement:

The Problem: Accountability is the Core Issue

Finding: We have determined that there is widespread confusion and widespread disagreement about who is and who should be accountable for Met Council vision, planning, execution (construction and operation), and performance evaluation.

Recommendation: The first and core issue the legislature should address in any Metropolitan Council reform or governance changes is how the Council should be accountable to the public and to local governments. We recommend that the legislature make clear assignment of these areas of accountability.

Task force members discussed Mary Pattock's proposed motion to adopt the above problem statement. Rep. Koznick proposed a friendly amendment that the words "first and core" in the "Recommendation" section of the problem statement be removed. Mary Pattock agreed to amend the language and suggested substituting in the word "basic" instead of "first and core." Rep. Koznick agreed to the substitution of "basic."

A roll call vote on substituting the word "basic" for the words "first and core" in Mary Pattock's proposed problem statement was taken. The new proposed recommendation was as follows:

Recommendation: The basic ~~first and core~~ issue the legislature should address in any Metropolitan Council reform or governance changes is how the Council should be accountable to the public and to local governments. We recommend that the legislature make clear assignment of these areas of accountability.

The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Pratt, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick, Myron Orfield, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Absent: Mayor Hovland

There being 16 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion prevailed.

Senator Pratt proposed a friendly amendment to add accountability to the legislature, amending the "Recommendation" section of the problem statement to say, "to the legislature, the public, and to local governments." Mary Pattock agreed to amend the language and suggested instead that the recommendation say, "the public and state and local governments." Senator Pratt agreed to that language.

A roll call vote was taken on amending language in Mary Pattock’s problem statement so that Council accountability to “public and state and local governments” be addressed. The new proposed recommendation was as follows:

Recommendation: The basic issue the legislature should address in any Metropolitan Council reform or governance changes is how the Council should be accountable to the public and to state and local governments. We recommend that the legislature make clear assignment of these areas of accountability.

The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Pratt, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick, Myron Orfield, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Absent: Mayor Hovland

There being 16 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion prevailed.

A roll call vote was taken to adopt Mary Pattock’s full problem statement with the earlier voted upon amendments. The full problem statement voted upon is as follows:

The Problem: Accountability is the Core Issue

Finding: We have determined that there is widespread confusion and widespread disagreement about who is and who should be accountable for Met Council vision, planning, execution (construction and operation), and performance evaluation.

Recommendation: The basic issue the legislature should address in any Metropolitan Council reform or governance changes is how the Council should be accountable to the public and to state local governments. We recommend that the legislature make clear assignment of these areas of accountability.

The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Pratt, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick, Myron Orfield, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Absent: Mayor Hovland

There being 16 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion prevailed.

Commissioner Greene brought forward principles which she wanted the task force to vote to adopt. The task force discussed her proposed principles. Commissioner Greene agreed to refine her principles for a vote at the January 24, 2024, task force meeting.

The task force discussed member proposals for Metropolitan Council governance changes and reform to be voted upon at the January 24, 2024, meeting.

Public Testimony:

Katie Jones, Michael Wojcik, and Peter Wagenius provided in-person public testimony.

Rep. Koznick read into the record written testimony from Denise Peterson.

Rep. Hornstein also called task force members' attention to the additional written testimony in members' folders.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.