



Metropolitan Governance Task Force

January 24, 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

Mayor James Hovland

Call to Order:

Chair Hornstein called the Metropolitan Governance Task Force meeting to order at 9:07 AM. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Meeting Minutes:

Rep. Wiens moved to adopt the Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2024. The motion prevailed.

Task Force Motions on Guiding Principles:

Rep. Wiens introduced the four guiding principles below:

Credibility: The COA delivers immediate credibility inherent in elected officials (either by local governments or direct election) who are accountable to their district and operate under the principle of being held accountable for their actions.

Accessibility: The COA delivers immediate accessibility inherent in elected officials (either by local governments or direct election) who are accountable to their district and operate under the principle of responsiveness to the public.

Transparency: The COA delivers immediate transparency inherent with elected officials (either by local governments or direct election) who are accountable to their district and operate under the principle of openness to the public.

Collaboration: The COA delivers immediate collaboration inherent with elected officials (either by local governments or direct election) who are accountable to their district and operate under the principle of a non-partisan collaborative planning environment.

Task force members discussed Rep. Wien's proposed principles as a slate. Rep. Klevorn proposed a friendly amendment that accountability be expanded to include the region so that the phrase reads "...accountable to their district and the region." Rep. Wiens agreed to amend the language.

Senator Pratt proposed a friendly amendment that the words "elected officials" be changed to "Metropolitan Council members." With that change in language, "(either by local governments or direct election)" was also removed. Rep. Wiens agreed to amend the language and then also proposed to strike out the words "inherent in."

Senator Dibble proposed a friendly amendment that the "Collaboration" principle be amended to say "...collaborative planning and service delivery environment." Rep. Wiens agreed to amend the language.

Rep. Wiens moved the following proposed principles, incorporating the friendly amendments previously discussed:

Credibility: The COA delivers immediate credibility in Metropolitan Council members who are accountable to their district and the region and operate under the principle of being held accountable for their actions.

Accessibility: The COA delivers immediate accessibility in Metropolitan Council members who are accountable to their district and the region and operate under the principle of responsiveness to the public.

Transparency: The COA delivers immediate transparency in Metropolitan Council members who are accountable to their district and the region and operate under the principle of openness to the public.

Collaboration: The COA delivers immediate collaboration in Metropolitan Council members who are accountable to their district and the region and operate under the principle of a non-partisan collaborative planning and service delivery environment.

A roll call vote on Rep. Wien's four principles, submitted as a slate, was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Pratt, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick, Professor Orfield, Mary Pattock, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Kristin Beckmann, Senator Dibble, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port

There being 13 Ayes and 4 Nays, the motion prevailed.

Commissioner Greene introduced the following principle:

Proportionality: The Course of Action (COA) ensures proportional representation so that each member represents the same number of residents.

Task force members discussed Commissioner Greene's "Proportionality" principle. Senator Dibble proposed a friendly amendment that the principle be amended to say that the COA "ensures there is equal representation for all residents." Commissioner Greene agreed to amend the language.

Commissioner Greene moved the following principle, incorporating Senator Pratt's friendly amendment:

Proportionality: The Course of Action (COA) ensures there is equal representation for all residents.

A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Pratt, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Professor Orfield, Mary Pattock, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Rep. Koznick

Absent: Senator Coleman

There being 15 Ayes and 1 Nay, the motion prevailed.

Commissioner Greene introduced the following principle:

Regional: The COA provides a regional orientation whereby Metropolitan Council members are locally selected.

Task force members discussed Commissioner Greene's "Regional" principle. Commissioner Greene moved the "Regional" principle without any amendment.

A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Pratt, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Koznick, Professor Orfield, Mary Pattock, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Kristin Beckmann, Rep. Klevorn, Renae Pereira-Webb

There being 14 Ayes and 3 Nays, the motion prevailed.

Commissioner Greene introduced the following principle:

Compensation: The COA includes the establishment of compensation and the resources necessary for Metropolitan Council members commensurate with the level of responsibility entrusted to them.

Task force members discussed Commissioner Greene's "Compensation" principle. Commissioner Greene moved the "Compensation" principle without any amendment.

A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Professor Orfield, Mary Pattock, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Senator Pratt, Senator Coleman, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick

There being 12 Ayes and 5 Nays, the motion prevailed.

Sam Rockwell introduced the following principle:

Clarity of Accountability: The COA delivers actual, rather than just perceived, accountability to the public by ensuring that the public knows and understands to whom Metropolitan Council members are accountable to on an ongoing basis.

Task force members discussed Mr. Rockwell's "Clarity of Accountability" principle. Mr. Rockwell moved the "Clarity of Accountability" principle without any amendment.

A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Professor Orfield, Mary Pattock, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Senator Pratt, Senator Coleman, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick

There being 12 Ayes and 5 Nays, the motion prevailed.

Task Force Motions for Report Recommendations:

Rep. Hornstein advised that task force members with governance proposals which had not already been discussed would each have a few minutes to present their proposal before task force discussion on the proposal.

Commissioner Greene presented her proposal advocating an elected model of governance.

Mayor Hovland presented his proposal for maintaining a governor-appointed model but with some changes, including adding staggered terms and amending the nominating committee process. Rep. Klevorn proposed that Mayor Hovland add into his proposal that the legislature should review compensation and look at the possible inclusion of staffing requirements. Mayor Hovland accepted those proposals and said they could be added into his proposal.

Senator Dibble presented his proposal for a "hybrid" model of governance to include both an elected body and a COG body, which had been updated since the prior meeting.

Senator Pratt presented two proposals. He presented his COG model, which had been updated since the prior meeting. He also presented another variation of a COG model but with a governor appointment process.

Kristin Beckmann presented her proposal to advance all of the proposals received by the task force for review by the legislature. Ms. Beckman moved to adopt the following course of action:

Include all the options for reforming the governance of the Metropolitan Council submitted to the Metropolitan Governance Task Force by January 24, 2024 in the final report to the MN State Legislature.

Commissioner Bigham moved to adopt an amendment to Ms. Beckmann's motion so that only Senator Dibble's "hybrid" model and Senator Pratt's COG model be included in the Report as recommendations. The task force discussed Commissioner's Bigham's motion.

A roll call vote was taken on Commissioner Bigham's motion to amend Ms. Beckmann's motion to only include Senator Dibble's and Senator Pratt's proposals in the Report as recommendations. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Senator Pratt, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Rep. Koznick, Jeff Reed, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Rep. Hornstein, Kristin Beckmann, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Professor Orfield, Mary Pattock, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Sam Rockwell

There being 6 Ayes and 11 Nays, the motion failed.

Ms. Beckmann moved her original proposal to include all options for reform in the Report. A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Pratt, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Mary Pattock, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Rep. Koznick, Professor Orfield, Sam Rockwell

There being 14 Ayes and 3 Nays, the motion prevailed.

Having determined that all governance proposals would be included in the Report and submitted to the legislature, Rep. Hornstein advised that the task force would now consider other motions related to reform but not governance specific.

Senator Pratt introduced the following recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that the operation and construction of Metro Transit be separated from the Metropolitan Council by January 1, 2027. The Task Force recommends that the legislature work on potential legislation and create a working group of all the necessary stakeholders to recommend options on how to implement such a separation.

The task force discussed Senator Pratt's recommendation. Senator Pratt moved his recommendation. A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Senator Pratt, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Rep. Koznick, Mary Pattock, Jeff Reed, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Rep. Hornstein, Kristin Beckmann, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Professor Orfield, Renae Pereira-Webb, Senator Port, Sam Rockwell

There being 7 Ayes and 10 Nays, the motion failed.

Commissioner Bigham introduced the following recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that performance measures, especially related to funding for transportation and transit projects, should be part of any legislative proposal to ensure member accountability and financial transparency.

Develop, adopt, and articulate agreed-upon regional transit service efficiencies and allow for strong local input into decisions about investment and operations.

The task force discussed Commissioner Bigham's recommendation. Commissioner Bigham moved her recommendation. A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

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

Abstain: Professor Orfield

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

Commissioner Bigham introduced the following recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that a reformed Council would need to immediately address the funding structure and relationship between the Metro HRA and other regional HRAs related to administration of housing vouchers.

The task force discussed Commissioner Bigham's recommendation. Rep. Klevorn proposed a friendly amendment that the words "immediately address" be replaced with "review." Commissioner Bigham agreed to amend the language.

Commissioner Bigham moved the following recommendation, incorporating Rep. Klevorn's friendly amendment:

The Task Force recommends that a reformed Council would need to review the funding structure and relationship between the Metro HRA and other regional HRAs related to administration of housing vouchers.

A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Pratt, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick, Mary Pattock, Senator Port, Jeff Reed, Sam Rockwell, Rep. Wiens

Nays: Professor Orfield, Renae Pereira-Webb

There being 15 Ayes and 2 Nays, the motion prevailed.

Sam Rockwell introduced the following recommendation:

The legislature should establish a comprehensive set of statutory goals for the Metropolitan Council. These goals can and should then serve as guideposts for Metropolitan Council vision and action and as benchmarks for Metropolitan Council success and public accountability.

The task force discussed Mr. Rockwell's recommendation. Mayor Hovland proposed a friendly amendment that the recommendation be adjusted so that the legislature should first determine whether statutory goals should be developed. Mr. Rockwell agreed to amend the language accordingly.

Mr. Rockwell moved the following recommendation, incorporating Mayor Hovland's friendly amendment:

The legislature should study whether to establish a comprehensive set of statutory goals for the Metropolitan Council. These goals can and should then serve as guideposts for Metropolitan Council vision and action and as benchmarks for Metropolitan Council success and public accountability.

A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Senator Dibble, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Professor Orfield, Mary Pattock, Senator Port, Sam Rockwell

Nays: Senator Pratt, Kristin Beckmann, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Coleman, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick, Renae Pereira-Webb, Jeff Reed, Rep. Wiens

There being 8 Ayes and 9 Nays, the motion failed.

Mary Pattock introduced the following recommendation:

Recommendation: The Met Council should adopt a vision that prioritizes quality of life.

The task force discussed Ms. Pattock's recommendation. Ms. Pattock moved her recommendation. A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

Ayes: Rep. Hornstein, Commissioner Bigham, Senator Dibble, Mary Pattock, Senator Port, Sam Rockwell

Nays: Senator Pratt, Kristin Beckmann, Senator Coleman, Commissioner Greene, Mayor Hovland, Rep. Klevorn, Rep. Koznick, Professor Orfield, Renae Pereira-Webb, Jeff Reed, Rep. Wiens

There being 6 Ayes and 11 Nays, the motion failed.

Rep. Hornstein inquired of members if they had any other motions that they would like to bring forward for a vote. No member brought forward any additional motions.

Rep. Hornstein explained broadly what would be included in the report. He advised that Ms. Koehler will send out a draft report by Sunday, January 28, 2024. Task force members should review that draft report and provide any feedback to Ms. Koehler by Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 5pm. Ms. Koehler will incorporate that feedback and send out a final report by Wednesday, January 31, 2024. Task force members will need to review the final report prior to voting on it at the final task force meeting on February 1, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33pm.