



Citizens' Initiative Review Commission  
Commission Meeting



1:30pm, Monday, September 28th, 2015  
College of Urban & Public Affairs  
Portland State University  
506 S.W. Mill St., Room 710  
Portland, OR 97201

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jerry Hudson, Chair  
Ann Bakkensen  
Mary Forst  
Robin Gumpert  
Kay Ogden  
Marion Sharp  
Ernest Estes  
Debby Southworth

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

James Huffman, Vice-Chair  
Daniel Esqueda

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PRESENT:**

Amy Delahanty for Sarah Giles, Administrative Coordinator  
Roslyn Owen, Financial Coordinator  
Wendy Willis, Policy Consensus Initiative Executive Director

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Lucy Greenfield, Healthy Democracy  
Jessie Conover, Health Democracy

**Call to Order**

Jerry Hudson, Chair, called the meeting of the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission (CIRC) to order at 1:30 pm., Monday, September 21, 2015, at the College of Urban & Public Affairs, Portland State University, 506 S.W. Mill Street, Room 720, Portland. Roll was called.

**Approval of Minutes from Commission Meeting June 8, 2015**

Kay Ogden made a motion to approve the minutes from the CIRC Commission Meeting on June 8, 2015. Debbie Southworth seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the motion. None opposed.

Following the approval of the minutes, Ann Bakkensen referred to the Policy Consensus Initiative's request to increase the amount of administrative services from \$17,000 to \$20,000. Bakkensen expressed her vote of confidence for the PCI and stated that whatever happens here in Oregon is a base for going forward in other states. Bakkensen added she thought it was important to be accurately reporting the efforts being made by PCI.

### **Financial Update**

Roslyn Owen from PCI shared there were a few hundred dollars added since the end of the last biennium. Owen added Healthy Democracy made one contribution and there was a small amount of bank fees.

### **CIRC Appointments and Nominations Process.**

Wendy Willis from PCI stated both Jerry Hudson and James Huffman's terms come up at the same time. The CIRC requires appointments by legislative leadership and the request has been made. Willis stated minority leader, Ted Ferrioli has expressed some concern over the Jackson County Citizens' Initiative Review. Jerry Hudson has volunteered to speak with the minority leader to clarify the CIRC was not part of the CIR process. Ted Ferrioli has two appointments he will need to make because the senate majority leader only appointed one individual last time. Willis noted if Ferrioli does not appoint two individuals, it may be problematic.

Jerry Hudson stated he was not appointed by Ferrioli, but he does know him and testified before him fairly recently. Hudson hoped that after explaining the situation sufficiently, Ferrioli will act to appoint commissioners. Wendy Willis also stated Commissioner James Huffman also volunteered to meet with Ferrioli.

Lucy Greenfield from Healthy Democracy (HD) stated there was some confusion as to the connection between the Jackson County CIR and the CIRC. HD stated there have been previous and ongoing conversations about this confusion. HD added that they have made a commitment to make sure a project like that will not happen in the future.

Hudson stated he will not be reinstating his seat and but will continue to watch with great interest the difference this process can make in the State of Oregon. He was delighted that the CIRC got the approval to go beyond the last legislative session.

The group asked PCI to send out the list of Commissioner term limits to the group.

### **CIR Process Review**

Jessie Conover from Healthy Democracy shared with the group the report of activities since last June. There was one confab in Oregon where three CIRC representatives were present. Also present were members of Healthy Democracy staff, HD board members and a project partner from Arizona's last pilot project.

The group explored some key questions as to how the new process can be built from HD's experience from 2014. Some of the topics explored were the length of the CIR process, when and how a vote count should be taken, and how panelists provided information. Following the Oregon confab, HD gathered a

group in Colorado with the HD board, staff, and a research team that included Dr. John Gastil and Dr. Katie Knobloch. HD stated Molly Keating was also in attendance.

HD is currently working to compile and synthesize the information. After Colorado, HD's internal decision wasn't entirely clear and the group decided to take a slight pause on the redesign work. HD will be undertaking a strategic planning session and then will resume the redesign process. HD feels that the processes in OR and CO was transformative and there was a lot of emergent wisdom. They are confident the redesign will be better and more efficient.

Ernest Estes asked if after the redesign, there would be testing. HD stated yes and they would be happy to chat with Commissioners after the meeting regarding this aspect. Robin Gumpert stated the process seemed like a very throughout review and commended the HD team in this effort.

The group then talked about the deadline for the redesign. HD stated they have a few drop dead dates for several things, but the relevant one would be for the December CIRC meeting.

PCI stated the CIRC would need to have some input into the design due to how PSU and the Dean sees PCI's involvement. There are some design question that may influence the level of involvement from the university.

Bakkensen stated she was one of the participants in the Oregon confab from the CIRC. She wondered if HD reduced the panel below 24, would it affect the diversity of the panel? Additionally, of the seven categories, which one would most likely be effected from this change? Bakkensen also expressed concern regarding shortening the days of the CIR process.

Estes stated diversity in the group may be compromised if there are less people. Marion Sharp asked HD if they may have a sense of whether that change would affect the diversity of the group. HD stated they would have to look back and see. Forst mentioned it would be good information for the CIRC to have. She also would like to know more about whether holding CIRs during the week affect full-time panelists. HD stated the researchers found that CIRs held during the week significantly lowered the number of full-time panelist participation.

Debby Southworth expressed her concerns with the number of hours panelists have with the information. She stated panelists have different educational backgrounds and may need time to process the information. From her experience, she needed time going over the information and felt that many of the people seemed like they couldn't absorb the technical information. Estes echoed it was both numbers and weight of the information.

Forst shared the CIR review group talked about how to receive higher quality information from independent sources. Conover stated HD is exploring providing panelists with factual information first before giving them information from advocates.

The CIRC group discussed meeting before the December CIRC meeting to go over recommendations before the group goes to vote on it. Hudson proposed potentially having an executive session brown bag to talk a little bit more about the issues and focus in on those that could be talked about at the December meeting. The group asked HD when they would have the redesign process done so the CIRC could make their recommendations. HD stated possibly two weeks before, but at least one week before the December meeting. HD stated they may know more by the end of October. CIRC asked if the researchers could be skyped into the November meeting and HD will explore whether that is a possibility. The group decided they will have an executive session in November if HD is ready to do that. Some of the topics the group may explore are number of votes, quality of information, and length of time. Commissioners felt that

diversity on the panel is critically important and potentially increasing the number of panelists and / or daily stipend would have a positive effect in increasing the diversity of the panel.

### **CIRC Recommendations**

Kay Ogden, Mary Forst, and Ann Bakkensen all participated in the Oregon Confab as members of the CIRC. They all felt it was a valuable opportunity to learn about different aspects of the process and discuss possibilities for new process ideas. Hudson stated there was a good discussion regarding this topic and will look with great interest in what is presented. The group asked about the deadline for the recommendations. PCI stated statutorily the group must make recommendations by December, but it is not required that there are changes each time the CIRC makes recommendations. Mary Forst felt the draft of recommendations was obscure and Bakkensen stated there was some confusion as to bullet points #4 and #5. Forst wanted to confirm the report is not due to the legislature until June. PCI confirmed that it is due by April; however, recommendations must be made public on the website in December. That recommendation could be the CIRC will undergo a review process after HD redesign and submit the report the legislature in April.

### **Other Business**

**No other business was discussed.**

### **Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment made.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30p.m.

Prepared by: Amy Delahanty and Sarah Giles, Administrative Coordinator