



Citizens' Initiative Review Commission
Commission Meeting



1:00pm, Tuesday, March 20, 2015
College of Urban & Public Affairs
Portland State University
506 S.W. Mill St., Room 720
Portland, OR 97201

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerry Hudson, Chair
James Huffman, Vice-Chair
Ann Bakkensen
Mary Forst
Robin Gumpert
Kay Ogden
Marion Sharp

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Daniel Esqueda

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

Call to Order

Jerry Hudson, Chair, called the meeting of the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission (CIRC) to order at 1:00 pm., Tuesday, March 10, 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 November 20, 2014

Robin Gumpert made a motion to approve the minutes from the CIRC Commission Meeting on November 20, 2014. Ann Bakkensen seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Evaluation of 2014 CIRs

Robin Gumpert gave a summary of the Moderators' Evaluation of the 2014 CIR sessions, which both took place in early March with all four moderators for both CIRs participating. Healthy Democracy staff facilitated the evaluation and the CIRC Administrative Coordinator was also present. The summary included in the Commissioners' meeting materials reflects the moderators' opinions that they continue to experience the CIRs as a unique and deliberative process, valuable for informing the citizen voters. Moderators also agreed on the importance of the co-moderator model, as the CIR process is a very complex one. In addition, the co-moderation helps to model good communications and working in collaboration as an added benefit to citizen panelists. The

moderators noted the many adaptations that took place over the course of both Oregon CIRs in 2014 as well as the pilots in other states and jurisdictions. They found that one of the final outputs that was successful was getting to a repeated small and large group format from Day 1 to Day 4. The final CIR pilot in Arizona also provided what the moderators considered a successful panel of independent experts who provided background info about the topic (pension reform) on Day 1. The moderators recognize the difficulty of independent experts being perceived as neutral, but such experts who are not affiliated with a campaign can still provide important information to citizen panelists. Moderators highlighted one process component for continued improvement: allowing panelists sufficient time to develop their own statements. They also suggested narrowing down and making clear the reasoning behind choosing different voting methodologies over the course of the CIRs as well as updating the moderator manual to ensure it is valuable in training new moderators.

The Commission has a discussion about both how to create enough time for citizens to work on developing their own statements within the shortened CIR timeframe (from 5 days to 3.5 days) and whether moving from 24 citizen panelists to 20 citizen panelists allowed for equitable representation of demographic groups. The Commission requested more information from the program manager, Healthy Democracy, on how a smaller group impacted equitable representation and perceptions of the representative sample.

Healthy Democracy would also be conducting the Citizen Panelists Evaluation of the 2014 CIR sessions in early April and would submit that report to the Commission ahead of the Commission's next meeting. In addition, the research team was completing their report to the Commission. The Commission requested both reports ahead of a late April meeting for their review in order to develop the Commission's findings and recommendations on the 2014 CIRs.

Quarterly Report to the Governor's Office

Hudson informed the Commissioners that the Governor's Office was now asking for regular quarterly reports from Commissions. He and Administrative Coordinator Sarah Giles would respond to the request prior to a March 31, 2014 deadline. Hudson asked Commissioners if they had any suggestions on one question, the top five results or outcomes of the Commission's work in the previous quarter. Commissioners suggested referencing the development of both a draft 2015-2017 work plan and 2015-2017 budget as well as conducting evaluations of the 2014 CIRs.

CIR Process Review

Healthy Democracy would like to engage the Commission in a robust process review of the CIR process along with partners from the 2014 pilots, the Policy Consensus Initiative, and others. Ann Bakkensen volunteered to represent the Commissioners during the process review. The CIR also requested a memo from Healthy Democracy on what participation in the process meant for the Commission.

Work Plan

Commissioners reviewed the 2013-2015 Work Plan and requested the staff provide a draft following that template for 2015-2017 Work Plan at the following meeting.

Draft Budget

Commissioners reviewed the 2013-2015 budget and actual expenses to date as provided in the meeting materials packet. They noted that the 2015-2017 budget would need to be developed based on anticipated length of the CIRs and requested administrative staff consult with program staff and funder Healthy Democracy on both anticipated length and anticipated funding. Staff would present a draft budget at the following meeting and schedule a public hearing for early June on the proposed budget.

CIRC Membership Update

Chair Hudson reviewed the Commissioners terms and noted that the evaluations of the 2014 CIRs would bring in two more citizen panelists to fill those spots and staff would continue to work with the Senate Republican leadership on filling the third political appointment. In addition, Commissioners would need to ensure that any

expiring terms would not exceed 6 in a two year period. The Commissioners noted that addition for the 2015-2017 Work Plan as they may need to develop an administrative rule around term expirations.

Public Comment

There were no guests present.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Sarah Giles,
Administrative Coordinator

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