



Citizens' Initiative Review Commission
Commission Meeting



June 7, 2016

Members Present

Ernie Estes
Debby Southworth
Bob Russell
Robin Harkless
John Rakowitz
Mary Forst
Kay Ogden

Members Absent

Daniel Esqueda

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PRESENT:

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

Public Present

Robin Teeter, Healthy Democracy
Jacob Foose, Healthy Democracy
Jessie Conover, Healthy Democracy
Amanda Olsen, Healthy Democracy
Pat McCormick
Rebecca Tweed

Call to Order

In the absence of a Chair, Sarah Giles, Administrative Coordinator, called the meeting of the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission (CIRC) to order at 10:30 am., Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at the College of Urban & Public Affairs, Portland State University, 506 S.W. Mill Street, Room 710, Portland. Roll was called. Two new Commissioners, Executive Appointees Bob Russell and John Racowitz, introduced themselves.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Debby Southworth nominated Ernie Estes for chair. Estes said he was willing but would prefer to have someone who's been on the Commission for longer, should someone wish. Commissioners engaged in discussion and Robin Harkless seconded nomination of Ernie as Chair. Commissioners voted unanimously to elect Estes Chair.

Estes next asked for nominations for Vice Chair. After discussion, Forst nominated Harkless. Harkless said she would be willing to serve but did want to note that she was now working with Oregon Consensus, a program affiliated with Kitchen Table Democracy, which provides administrative support to the Commission. Harkless noted that she would be fully prepared to recuse herself during any conversations regarding contracting with KTD

for staffing and welcomed any discussion about concerns with her serving as Vice Chair. As no concerns were voiced, Southworth seconded the nomination. All Commissioners voted in favor of electing Harkless Vice Chair.

Approval of Minutes from Commission Meeting March 29, 2016

Chair Estes asked for any comments or corrections on the minutes. None were made. Southworth moved to approve the minutes as drafted and Forst seconded the motion. Members voted to approve the minutes with John Racowitz and Bob Russell abstaining as they were not yet Commission members during the meeting.

Rulemaking – Proposed Rule on Identification of Independent Experts

Chair Estes asked Giles, Rules Officer, for a report on any public comments. Giles reported that while members of the public were in attendance at the public hearing, no one submitted any public comments. Given no suggested changes, she recommended the Commission adopt the rule as drafted.

Russell moved to approve the draft rule language and Forst seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted to approve the rule. The rule (710-015-0000) thus states, According to the duties defined in ORS 250.139(6)(e), the Commission shall establish a panel of experts independent of campaigns supporting or campaigns opposing the measure to provide testimony or other information to the citizen panel.

Chair Estes proposed Commissioners discuss a subcommittee that would work with staff to identify any independent experts to recommend to the full Commission. Estes, Russell, Southworth and Harkless volunteered to serve with the rest of the Commission attending either in person or by phone if able. Commissioners directed Giles to schedule a meeting for the sub-committee to meet in late July and then schedule a full Commission meeting on either August 8 or 9 for selecting independent experts.

Preparation for 2016 CIRs

Commissioners reviewed the tasks laid out in ORS 250.139, noting the selection criteria that Commissioners shall consider in selecting a ballot measure. Healthy Democracy's Executive Director, Robin Teater, notified Commissioners that HD will be able to fund one review with 24 panelists. HD is also requesting a waiver of the printing fee in the voters' pamphlet from the Secretary of State's office. Russell asked what the whole budget for the panel was and Teater said she would submit it as an addendum to the meeting minutes.

HD's Jessie Conover also shared the most recent demographic information for the state and noted that the voting history numbers may change to reflect participation in the recent primary as the information was completed the day before the primary. Staff would be conducting the selection of panelists on July 12 and Commissioners were invited to observe. Both Harkless and Southworth expressed interest. Commissioners also discussed a policy for allowing members of the public and others to video record the CIR and whether to refer a question around this topic to legal counsel. Commissioners asked staff to do further research to assist in devising a specific question at a future date.

Mary Forst next notified Commissioners that she was a candidate for moderating the CIR in Oregon this year and as such was offering her resignation from the Commission as she wanted to protect the process from any potential criticism. Commissioners stated that Forst's participation on the Commission was invaluable and they highly respect her skills as a moderator but respect the need to protect the process.

Estes asked Giles for an update on potential initiatives collecting signatures. Giles noted that a summary of initiative that have been submitted signatures was included in the meeting materials. Initiative Petition 28 has already qualified and the Legislative Revenue Office had already completed a report on it.

Public Comment Period

HD's Conover provided an update on a mechanism for allowing citizen panelists to opt out of the daily stipend. In the past, HD had asked panelists if they want to donate their stipends to future CIRs. This year HD would continue

to do that on the last day of the CIR and would assume that people would not opt out unless they expressly made that decision.

Other Business

Giles referred Commissioners to the timeline included in the meeting materials and especially drew attention to upcoming CIRC meetings in July and August to select ballot measures and independent experts.

Estes adjourned the meeting at approximately 12noon.