

Lafayette Charter & Communication Committee
Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2009

Attendees:

Mayor Don Tatzin
Rod De La Rosa
Cheryl Noll
Yolanda Vega
Elizabeth Johnson
Greg Woehrle
Dan Deitrick
James Hamill
Tracy Robinson (staff)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tatzin. There was a discussion of the duties and responsibilities of the Chair and Co-Chair positions.

It was moved, seconded and approved that Cheryl Noll and Yolanda Vega be appointed Chair and Co-Chair respectively.

The Committee then discussed the basic tasks of the Committee. It was agreed that the Committee would select a number of Charter cities to interview in order to gain more specific knowledge about the pros and cons of being a Charter city. The research would also seek to get information about the process of becoming a Charter city, specifically from those Cities that have recently been successful in changing their status from General Law cities.

The group reviewed the list of 114 Charter cities and picked 20 cities to interview. The criteria for choosing cities included those with whom Committee members had personal contacts, cities that the Committee felt Lafayette residents might aspire to emulate as well as a few specific cities Lafayette would not want to imitate.

The Committee then assigned members to each City for additional research. The responsibility for each member would be to obtain the specific charter for each City, read the charters and develop a series of questions for an interview guide. The members would then be tasked with interviewing the cities, preferably in pairs and in person if possible.

A general timeline and tasks for the Committee were set as follows:

May 1-15: Develop interview guide / questionnaire.

May 15-30: Conduct interviews

June 1-15: Discuss results and come to preliminary consensus

June 15-September: Conduct additional research and begin preparation of report / supplemental information

September: Present findings to the City Council

The Committee also decided that they would go before the City Council at their May 11th meeting to ask for their input.

The group then discussed the future meeting schedule and agreed to meet each Thursday night at 6 pm until further notice. It was also agreed that the meetings would be kept to a maximum of 90 minutes as long as the weekly schedule continued.

City Assignments:

Alameda – Elizabeth
Berkeley – Reid
Carlsbad – James
Del Mar – Dan
Folsom – Yolanda
Indian Wells – Don
Monterey – Greg
Napa – Don
Newport Beach – TBD
Oakland – Rod
Palo Alto – Reid
Piedmont – Don / Greg
Redwood City – Elizabeth
Sacramento – Elizabeth / Yolanda
San Luis Obispo – Cheryl
San Rafael – TBD
San Ramon – Cheryl
Santa Barbara – James
Vallejo – Don / Tracy

The next meeting was scheduled for April 30th at 6pm.
The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.