



**Governance Task Force Minutes
Community Chambers Conference Room
March 7, 2005**

Members Present: Gerald Adler (Vice Chair), Val Dolcini, John Garamendi, Susan Gefter, Ted Lascher, Michael Levy (Chair), Jon Li, Nick Mariano, Joan Poulos

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Bette Racki, Zoe Mirabile

Meeting called to order by Chair Levy at 7:03 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Li proposed discussing rescheduling municipal elections before Item 6: Final Consideration of All Items Previously Discussed. No support for proposal. Agenda approved as submitted by consensus.

2. Approval of Minutes – February 22, 2005

Minutes approved by consensus.

3. Task Members and Staff Communications

Question and answer session with County Clerk Freddie Oakley regarding implementation of choice/preference voting elections. Discussion included capability of new voting machines to implement choice voting, costs to City of Davis and request to County Counsel for preparation a memo regarding implementation of choice voting by a general law city.

4. Written Communications

- a. A Citizen's Guide to California's Charter Cities and Counties, FAQs on Legal Issues Relating to Charter Cities and Government Code Section 34871 submitted by Peter Detwiler, Senate Local Government Committee Consultant.
- b. Report explaining choice voting as instituted by the ASUCD Senate and detailing election results submitted by Li.
- c. Senate Bill No. 596, introduced by Senator Bowen and Assembly Member Hancock, proposing allowance of cumulative voting, limited voting, choice voting or instant runoff voting by general law cities.
- d. Spring 2005 Focus Newsletter which includes article "Governance Task Force Seeks Input."
- e. California Aggie editorial advocating choice voting.

5. Public Communications

None.

6. Final Consideration of All Items Previously Discussed, to Include Any Missed Items as Determined by Task Force, and Recommendations for Final Report

Levy distributed an outline reflecting a summary of the issues remaining for consideration:

I. Council elections:

- A. At-Large. Unanimously opposed.
- B. District. Unanimously opposed.
- C. Choice or Preference Voting. Approved by consensus. Abstain: Mariano.

II. Responsibilities of Mayor

- A. Councilmember. Unanimously approved.
- B. Separate City Officer. Removed from discussion.

III. Mayoral Selection:

- A. Elected
 - (1) Most votes of Council candidates
 - (2) Separate vote
 - (a) Highest vote getter
 - (b) Majority vote with instant runoff
- B. Selected
 - (1) Vote of Council
 - (2) Rotating seat

Ruben Aravello spoke in opposition to direct election of the Mayor and in support of Mayor selection through vote of the City Council, stating Council functions best as a membership of equals.

Adam Barr spoke in opposition to Mayor selection by vote of City Council due to potential ulterior motives and possible lack of knowledge regarding leadership skills of newly elected Councilmembers.

Task Force directed two subcommittees (Mariano/Poulos and Dolcini/Lascher) to write up proposals for Mayoral Selection for further discussion on March 14, 2005.

IV. Commissions

- A. Too Many. Approved by consensus. Noes: Adler, Garamendi, Li.
- B. Too Few. Removed from discussion.
- C. No change. Removed from discussion.
- D. Council Interaction. Removed from discussion.
- E. Use by Council and Public.
- F. Timing of Commissioner Appointments.

V. Public Participation

- A. Neighborhood associations

- (1) More Formal City Interaction.
- (2) Could Be Used Better by City or Neighbors
- (3) Currently Used Appropriately. Removed from discussion.

B. Education

- (1) City Should Educate Public Regarding Process at Meetings and Ways to Participate. Unanimous approval.

C. City/UC Davis-Administration & Student Relations

- (1) Ways to Improve Involvement
- (2) Ways to Improve Perceptions

D. Date of elections

- (1) Current (spring)
- (2) November

E. Other participation issues

VI. Responsibilities Placed on Councilmembers

- A. Members Do Too Much. Removed from discussion.
- B. Members Do Too Little. Removed from discussion.
- C. Appropriate. Removed from discussion.

VII. Size of the Council

- A. Increase. Approved by consensus. Noes: Li, Levy.
- B. Decrease. Unanimously opposed.
- C. No change. Removed from discussion.

VIII. Campaign Spending Ordinance

- A. More Detailed Disclosure
- B. More Effective Penalties
- C. City Tracking and Disclosure of Violators
- D. "Retire the Debt" Parties

IX. Other Charter City Status

- A. Whether Davis Should Adopt a Charter
 - (1) Davis Should Adopt a Charter. Removed from discussion.
 - (2) Davis Should Adopt a Charter if Necessary to Implement Recommendations. Unanimously approved.
 - (3) Davis Should Remain a General Law City. Removed from discussion.
- B. If a Charter, Content
 - (1) Detailed. Removed from discussion.
 - (2) Broad. Approved by consensus. Abstain: Li.

X. Other Issues

Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.