



Citizens' Initiative Review Commission
Commission Meeting



1:00pm, Monday, April 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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Lucy Greenfield, Healthy Democracy
Debby Southworth, Incoming CIR Commissioner

Call to Order

Jerry Hudson, Chair, called the meeting of the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission (CIRC) to order at 1:00 pm., Monday, April 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 March 20, 2015

One modification was made March 20, 2015 notes, correcting the spelling of Commissioner Robin Gumpert's name. Gumpert made a motion to approve the minutes with modification from the CIRC Commission Meeting on March 20, 2015. Ann Bakkensen seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Evaluation of 2014 CIRs

Lucy Greenfield of Healthy Democracy summarized the Citizen Panelist Evaluation Report, which took place in early April with four citizen panelists from both 2014 CIR sessions participating. Two CIR Commissioners, Kay Ogden and Ann Bakkensen, observed the evaluations along the CIRC Administrative Coordinator Sarah Giles. All four panelists shared their enthusiasm for the process and, as with the moderators' evaluation, provided suggestions for process changes. Citizen panelists were interested in either adding some more time or looking at how to use the time more efficiently so that panelists had more time to write their own claims. Panelists liked the opportunity to talk with different people from around the state on ballot measures and expressed an interest in making sure that panelists with different backgrounds were supported in making good decisions on the measures. Healthy Democracy will be using both evaluations to look at making adjustments for future processes. Bakkensen added that some of the panelists participating in the evaluation suggested panelists be given more preparation ahead of the CIRs on what the final product would be like.

Commissioners engaged in a discussion on how the vote tally is framed or conducted. Some panelists and Commissioners expressed support for engaging all panelists in every piece, including crafting their own statements, but maintaining a vote at the end showing how the panel felt in favor or against the measure. Other Commissioners and panelists also expressed interest in asking panelists how many agreed with each key finding to get a better picture of the strength of those key findings. Commissioners also discussed panelists' desire to be able to express their thoughts on how the measures were written or put together, which panelists could include as a key finding. Allowing panelists more time to write their own claims may also allow that to come to the surface.

The Research Team had also shared its report with the Commission on the 2014 CIRs. Mary Forest raised one question about the consistency of two findings from the report on page 15 and 16, which referred to the topic of consideration of different viewpoints and was reflected in figure 1.13. Forest asked for some clarification of what seems to be an inconsistency in the findings from the research team on the value of having small groups moderated by facilitators. Gumpert also noted the finding that more voters know about the statement, which raises the question of the role the Commission should be playing in outreach to voters about the CIR and the statement as a source of information for voters. Commissioners discussed what might be done to include some language that is clear, concise, and accessible to voters to point them to FAQs on the CIRC's website about the CIRs and the role of the Commission itself. The Research Team's usability studies and findings provide a basis for helpful FAQs for the public.

Commissioners began the discussion of their findings and recommendations for the 2014 CIRs, which they determined to continue to work on over the summer and early fall, with a final report posted online per ORS 250.143 by December 2015. At this stage, Commissioners were interested in finding a way to have experts who are independent from the measure campaigns provide information to the panel. The challenge may be in determining who those experts are; one potential way to do so would be to step outside the process and ask a large group of Oregon voters what kinds of experts they would want to hear from on those issues to help guide identification. They also noted the confusion of referring to campaign advocates as experts vs. advocates. Commissioners were also interested in learning more about any limitations of what can be in the statement that goes into the Voters' Guide from the Secretary of State's Office. The Commission is also interested in continuing to pursue whether to continue to have a vote on the citizen panel's support for or against the measure and in determining what mechanisms the Commission itself might strategize about to promote the CIR itself.

Report on Selection of new CIR Commissioners from Citizen Panelist Evaluation

As part of the citizen panelists' evaluation process, two new CIR Commissioners were selected from among the four who participated in the evaluation. Debby Southworth and Ernest Estes were elected to join the Commission in Spring 2015 for a two year term. Southworth was present at the meeting and

welcomed by current Commissioners. Both would be asked to complete the Interest Forms required by the Governor's Office to officially join the Commission, hopefully by the June meeting.

Commissioners also asked staff to re-engage with the Senate minority leader's office on the third Governor appointment.

Draft Work Plan Review

Administrative Coordinator Sarah Giles presented a draft work plan for 2015-2017. Commissioners requested adding the following items:

- CIRC promotion / education of public on CIR process
- Work on Commission's Report on 2014 CIRs to Aug-Dec with a vote to approve a final report in December 2015
- Begin Commission's Report to the Legislature in Dec 2015 and final vote on at a March 2016 meeting

Draft Budget Review

Budget Coordinator Roslyn Owen presented a draft budget at the following meeting and schedule a public hearing for early June on the proposed budget. Staff clarified the budget presented was based on 4 day CIRs for the 2016 CIRs and included two years of administrative staffing as well as higher levels of panelist stipends as approved by rule by the Commission in November 2014. Commissioners also asked to see what amounts a 5 day CIR would be. Commissioners also asked for clarification on what the State Government Service Charges covered. Staff would check in with the Department of Administrative Services and also ask for a comparison with other Semi-Independent Boards and Agencies.

Gumpert moved to approve the draft budget for public hearing. Marion Sharpe seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Public Comment Period

Guests had not comments at this time.

Other Business Public Comment

Giles reminded the Commissioners that both a Public Hearing on the 2015-2017 Budget and a Commission meeting would be held on June 8th. Robin Gumpert and Debby Southworth both were available to be present for the public hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Administrative Coordinator

Prepared by: Sarah Giles,