

**GRAND COUNTY CHANGE IN FORM OF GOVERNMENT
STUDY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

**Grand County Council Chambers
125 East Center Street, Moab, Utah**

**MINUTES
July 26, 2019**

Call to Order

The Grand County Change in Form of Government Study Committee met in Regular Session on the above date in the County Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stocks at 12:03 p.m. In attendance were Study Committee Members Judy Carmichael, Walt Dabney, Bob Greenberg, and Marcy Till; Cricket Green and Jeramy Day arrived late. Also in attendance was Bryony Hill (Council Office Coordinator) to take minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marcy Till.

Approval of Minutes

- A. July 19, 2019 (Study Committee Regular Meeting)

MOTION: Motion made by Bob Greenberg to approve the July 19, 2019 minutes with the suggested changes. Motion seconded by Judy Carmichael. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Jeramy Day abstaining.

General Reports

- B. Report on response received from the Lieutenant Governor's Office regarding whether the municipal election year of 2021 is possible for election of candidates into a new form of government (Chris Baird, County Clerk/Auditor)**

- Chris Baird, County Clerk/Auditor reported that he spoke with the Lieutenant Governor's Office about whether we could have the election of officers run in a municipal general election (2019 or 2021), and the answer to that was no. Lt. Governor's office indicated the Transition Plan must comply with state code and the election of officers must happen during the regular general election (2020 or 2022).

- C. Report on breakdown by event location of number of surveys received (County Council Administrator Dillon)**

- No discussion, but the following breakdown was included in packet:
 - 39- Grand Center
 - 40- Spanish Valley
 - 27- Castle Valley
 - 37- 4th of July
 - 106- Other
 - Total- 249

Community Outreach and Possible Action

D. Suggestions for additional public service announcement(s) (Committee Member Till)

- Marcy did not have anything to report at this time.

E. Suggestions for next newspaper editorial regarding the public engagement process (Chairperson Stocks)

- Stephen did not have anything to report at this time.

Citizens to Be Heard

- Mark Thomas- who lives on palisade avenue, asked, "has a decision definitely been made will the form be on the ballot or not?" Stephen Stocks stated that there is no definitive date. Mark Thomas stated he recommends a "5 person council executive official be appointed by the council rather than be elected as a mayor".

Presentations: None

General Business- Action Items- Discussion and Consideration of: None

Consent Agenda- Action Items

F. Ratifying the Chair's signature on a thank you letter to attorneys who provided proposals for legal services

- Bob Greenberg stated that since the body was unanimous in its expression of intent that such a letter be sent, he thinks it is unnecessary at this time. Stephen Stocks agreed and said that it can be resolved without having to do anything else. Therefore, no motion was made.

Discussion Items

G. Elements to include in an optional plan for county government (Attorney Gavin Anderson, by phone)

- Discussion was had on the Initial Outline of the Grand County Option Plan of Government. Gavin Anderson would be able to attend by phone at the next meeting and update the document with the recommendations made on later agenda items in today's meeting.

MOTION: Motion made by Bob Greenberg for a short recess. Motion seconded by Walt Dabney. Carried 7-0.

Back from recess at 1:29 pm.

Discussion and Possible Action on Study Strategy

H. Recommending voting by district or at-large or a combination of both, postponed from July 19, 2019 (Chairperson Stocks)

- Bob Greenberg suggested having a discussion with the County Planner on what ideas he might have and look at HD Overlay, parcel size, primary vs. 2nd homes, age of housing stock, transportation corridors, property values. He suggest doing a one time workgroup with County Planner, City Planner and Mr. Cooper (consultant on election districts) and have them come up with a recommendation or possible ideas.

MOTION: Motion made by Bob Greenberg to have a one time workshop with County Planner, City Planner and Mr. Cooper to provide recommendations on what other variables other than purely numbers and recommend districts to the Study Committee. Motion died for lack of second.

- Discussion was had on voting by District, At-Large, or a combination of both. Which would yield the best candidates?
 - Districts- Citizens would get to vote for the candidate that would be able to represent them best.
 - At-Large- Citizens would get to vote for all candidates.
 - Combination of both- There would be somewhat of a compromise and Citizens can vote for the candidates in their District as well as those that are At-Large. By doing a combination, Citizens would be able to vote for the majority of the Candidates.
- Discussion continued about having 2 (two) Districts, a City District and Rural District, and the benefits of having one of each represent City and Rural Districts.

Motion was made by Jeramy Day to have 3 At-Large and 2 Districts, with one district being primarily within City limits and the second being rural, outside the city limits, and with the caveat that Mr. Cooper use only population data. Seconded by Cricket Green.

- Continued discussion after motion was on the table with Gavin Anderson weighing in stating that no County has more At-Large than by District. Right now, Grand County has 5 Districts and 2 At-Large.
- A general consensus was that Grand County is unique, doesn't necessarily do things how everyone else does them, and we shouldn't worry about past elections.

MOTION: Motion was made by Jeramy Day to have 3 At-Large and 2 Districts, with one district being primarily within City limits and the second being rural, outside the city limits, and with the caveat that Mr. Cooper use only population data. Seconded by Cricket Green. Motion carried 6-1 with Bob Greenberg in opposition.

I. Discussion and possible action on recommending one of the four forms of county government, postponed from July 19, 2019 (Committee Member Till)

- Discussion was had on the four forms of government. Committee Members saw the concerns the citizens have about the current form.
- Having Commissioners, they are shown a little bit more "respect". They are involved in the workings of the Government and they understand what is going on day-to-day. Gavin Anderson agrees with this and this is what he has observed.
- Commission has executive and legislative powers. Council has legislative powers and delegate executive duties.

MOTION: Motion was made by Bob Greenberg to recommend an appointed Council-Manager form of Government. Seconded by Marcy Till.

- Continued discussion regarding finding a Council Manager and how it could be difficult to find one. However, if you pay what the position should be paid, "they will come".
- Remember what the consensus was when they interviewed department heads, council members (past and present). They don't want chaos, they want a smooth transition.

MOTION: Motion was made by Bob Greenberg to recommend an appointed Council-Manager form of Government. Seconded by Marcy Till. Motion carried 4-3 with Stephen Stocks, Cricket Green and Jeramy Day opposed.

Public Hearings- Possible Action Items (none)

Future Considerations

- To offer compensation for snacks.
- Gavin to come down and address as a possible action item. Gavin will redraft document with updated information.

Closed Session(s) (if necessary): None**Adjournment**

Moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:15pm.

Stephen Stocks
Chairperson

Marcy Till
Secretary