

Special Committee on Council Processes
Notes from Oct. 15, 2024 Meeting

Present: CMs Asare, Rollo, Piedmont-Smith, plus Clerk Bolden, Deputy Clerk Crossley, Attorney/Administrator Lehner

Absent: CM Flaherty

Guest speakers: Ryan Robling and David Hittle from Planning & Transportation

1. Robling presented the proposal for a new Advisory Transportation Commission (ATC)
 - Sort of a Plan Commission for transportation projects.
 - All transportation safety projects would go through this commission.
 - Would end the awkward dynamic of having staff members as voting members of commissions. The commission would be a more independent voice.
 - Save staff time, which will enable staff to focus on collecting relevant data and writing reports.
 - Membership would also address some equity concerns since current 3 commissions are mostly white male, no rep. from the CCA or disability community.
 - Formation of commission goes along with the Safe Streets for All Action Plan. Projects coming to the commission will have specific review criteria that mesh with the SS4A plan.
 - Revisions to the Transportation Plan will come to the ATC first, then to Plan Commission and then to Council
 - For neighborhood traffic calming and greenways projects: Proposals will go to the ATC, whether they are staff-initiated or resident-initiated.
 - Plan is to formalize resident-led traffic requests such as a stop sign.

Discussion

Rollo: How are staff-led traffic calming projects prioritized?

Robling: By safety

Rollo: We need more specificity of neighborhood greenways in the Transportation Plan and/or final approval should come to the Council.

Some discussion of requiring meetings once per month vs. letting the ATC decide on meeting schedule. The latter is currently in the proposal.

Piedmont-Smith: What is your timeline?

Robling: Want to have the ATC in place January 1 so they can fill the positions by end of January.

Public Comment

Terry Amsler: Interested in how the ATC would create its own processes and procedures

Christopher Emge: Served on the Parking Commission for 4 years, supports the proposed ATC

2. Code of Conduct for commission members

CM Rollo discussed the background and the particular case that came to the Council's attention in early 2023, referred to the 3/1/23 report of the SCCP to the Council. In addition to Code of Conduct, Rollo sees the need for a mechanism to remove commissioners. He still plans to meet with Corporation Counsel Margie Rice to discuss, and use the employee personnel manual as a starting point. We agreed to put this on the agenda again for November.

Public Comment

Taylor Brown: Under the unitary executive theory, commissioners serve at the pleasure of the mayor or at the pleasure of the council.

3. Scheduling

We confirmed the date of the November meeting (Nov. 12, 8-9:30 am) and scheduled our December meeting for Dec. 10, 8-9:30 am.

Topics for November

- Proposals to revise process for regular sessions (CM Asare)
- Code of Conduct (CM Rollo)
- Title 2 changes for individual boards/commissions as previously discussed (CM Piedmont-Smith) – Note that BCOS will probably have to wait until December

Topics for December

- Integration of equity lens into Council processes (CM Flaherty)
- Year-end report to Council

Discussion of CBA/deliberation session on Nov. 13.

- CM Piedmont-Smith said she had delegated this to a few other CMs to organize, including CM Asare.
- He said the topic could be the ATC proposal, to be deliberated by CMs themselves (not big public discussion like the previous CBA sessions).

4. Public Comment

Terry Amsler: Interested in a deliberation session of council on the ATC proposal. Unfortunately, his comments were cut short due to timing.