

14. Sec. 3.8 - Planning Commission

Charter Review Committee

Recommendation Summary Section 3.8

Brief Summary of Amendment

- Increases the membership of the Planning Commission from 9 to 11.
- Changes the composition of the Planning Commission to require diversity of membership.
- Changes the six positions that are not appointed to represent a district to general appointments that provide more flexibility and diversity of appointments. The six positions should be filled with members with diverse experience and provides a list of potential membership expertise.
- Eliminates the Charter prohibition on Planning Commission members receiving pay.

Committee Vote

Yes: Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Patrick Fischer, Bryan Flint, Jason Gauthier, Melissa Malott, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, Steve Wamback, Diamatris Winston, Lok Yin Wu

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andre Jimenez

Amendment

Section 3.8 – There shall be a Planning Commission, composed of ~~nine (9)~~ eleven (11) members, with such powers and duties as are provided by ordinance. The ~~nine~~ eleven members shall be residents of the City of Tacoma and be appointed and confirmed by the City Council for terms of three (3) years each.

The Council must ensure the appointments provide for diversity of planning commission members. The diversity should include race, ethnicity, gender, backgrounds, experiences, and expertise and must not be over-represented in any areas of expertise or experience. The membership of the commission shall include ~~One member shall be appointed by the City Council for each of the five council districts and the Council shall appoint to the four~~six ~~remaining positions an individual from each of the members appointed by the Council with experience that may include, but is not limited to, the following:~~

- (a) the development community;
- (b) the environmental community, including environmental sustainability;
- (c) public transportation, ~~and~~
- (d) ~~a designee with background of involvement in architecture, or historic preservation, and/or,~~
- (e) urban design;
- (f) affordable housing;

(g) public health; or

(h) the business community.

A majority of the voting members of such Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Commission shall be authorized to adopt rules for the transaction of business not inconsistent with this charter or ordinances of the City of Tacoma. ~~Said Planning Commission members shall serve without pay.~~

Amendment Positions

Rationale for Amendment:

Our city's planning commission plays an important role in shaping the future development and growth of our community. However, the current commission needs more capacity and flexibility in representation. By expanding the commission to eleven members and proactively recruiting members with diverse racial, ethnic, gender, and professional backgrounds, we can ensure that a wider range of perspectives and lived experiences inform crucial decisions about zoning, infrastructure, housing, and public spaces. An expanded and more diverse commission will better understand the unique needs and priorities of different neighborhoods, allowing for more equitable and inclusive planning while bringing fresh ideas and innovative approaches to longstanding urban challenges. Prioritizing diversity and inclusion on the planning commission is essential for building a city that truly works for all its residents.

Dissenting Position:

None