

**Minute: Town Meeting Procedures Review Committee**

Meeting Date: **March 11, 2010**

Members present: Peter Gossels (Chairperson), Dennis Berry, Steve Correia, Miranda Jones, Richard Stack, William Steinberg. Absent: David Bernstein

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM and the minutes from the March 4, 2010 meeting were approved as read. (Motion moved by DP and seconded by RS)

Discussion was held on the conduct of the evening's scheduled public hearing. WS asked if the format was to be similar to the Town meeting format with Pro and Con arguments. It was agreed that the format should be the same as other town held hearings. A presentation of the pro and con arguments with opportunities to ask questions as needed. The hearing will then be open for general public comments.

It was also confirmed that the criteria for evaluating all the proposed changes to the Town Meeting was distributed to all article proponents in preparation of the evenings hearing so they knew what the committee would be considering in their evaluations.

It was verified by Richard Turner, volunteer crew that WayCam was filming the hearing and it would be available for On-Demand viewing.

The meeting went into recess at 7:25 PM

Meeting convened at 7:30 PM for the so purpose of a public hearing on the Australian Ballot.

PG – Introductions were made by all the committee members. PG gave a brief description of the committee's mission and ultimate goals. He also discussed our guidelines and criteria. He stated that each proponent would be given 10 minutes to discuss their pro and con arguments of the Australian Ballot article. PG thanked the proponents for submitting briefs to the committee before hand. (Briefs should be attached to these minutes)

7:45 PM - Mark Greenlaw, one of the petitioners of the Australian Ballot Article 22 presented his pro argument. He discussed the major changes to the article that he and his co-petitioners filed during the week. Presentation focused heavily on higher voter participation with this new method of Town Meeting. He presented that a Town meeting would still take place along with voting and opportunities to amend articles. Various questions were asked by the committee members along with one that was read into record by David Bernstein who was not present.

Two particular questions were discussed at length. One was on the handling of the town budget and what happens if it should not get approved at the polls. Another major issue addressed was the assumption that Town meetings were not working and needed updating.

8:20 PM - Alan Reiss, presented a con argument against the Australian Ballot. His presentation focused mostly on the need for major turnouts on debate nights to protect original articles presented at Town meetings. AR argued that this method of town meeting would not save any significant dollars compared to his article on electronic balloting. PG reminded AR that he would have his turn to present his article in a few weeks. AR also spent a considerable amount of time on the various government approvals and changes needed to make an Australian Ballot successful. He discussed the risks of a delayed State legislation Act. Various committee members asked some questions of AR mostly around the legal issues he presented.

8:50 PM - PG called for a quick break

9:00 PM - PG called the meeting back to order and opened the meeting to public comments and questions.

There were no other public comments or questions. However, Mark Greenlaw asked if he could rebut some of Alan Reiss's comments. MG further discussed some of the legal issues and the handling of line item budget changes.

9:25 - PG closed the hearing. It was agreed that the committee would debate the article and Public Hearing comments at their next scheduled meeting.

9:30 - Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Correia

**NOTE: Public Hearing recording is on file at WayCam On-Demand and can be viewed by logging into the [www.waycamtv.com](http://www.waycamtv.com)**