



City of Somerville
Review of Multiple-Member Bodies Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 29, 2026
6:00p.m.

Staff Liaison

Brendan Salisbury, Legislative and Policy Analyst

Commission Members

Brenna Broderick
Jesse Clingan
Chris Dwan
Derrick Rice
Kimberly Wells

The meeting was held via Zoom. City Council Legislative and Policy Analyst Brendan Salisbury convened the meeting at 6:00p.m. and noted that, as this was the inaugural meeting of the Review of Multiple-Member Bodies Committee, he would preside briefly until the election of a Chair.

Others present: Mihika Gogate, Project Assistant; Emily Lopez Touchy, Project Assistant; Brendan Salisbury, Legislative and Policy Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Call of the Roll

Analyst Salisbury called the roll for attendance. Responses were as follows:

Liaison Broderick:	Absent
Councilor Clingan:	Absent
Chris Dwan:	Present
Derrick Rice:	Present
Clerk Wells:	Present

With three members in attendance there was a quorum and the meeting was called to order.

Analyst Salisbury introduced the purpose of the committee, established by Section 8-6 of the City Charter, and informed the members that the deadline for the submission of their final report and recommendations is the first regular City Council meeting in December.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2.1. Election of a Chair.

Analyst Salisbury called for nominations for Chair. Derrick Rice nominated Chris Dwan. Clerk Wells seconded the nomination. Chris Dwan was elected Chair on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Wells, Rice, Dwan), 0 opposed, 2 absent (Broderick, Clingan).

Chair Dwan asked the members if they would prefer more conversational or more structured meetings. Clerk Wells and Derrick Rice indicated that they felt a more conversational approach was appropriate, but indicated that they would prefer to maintain a practice of speakers being recognized by the Chair before speaking.



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Chair Dwan stated his intent to allow attending members of the public to speak if they wished to be recognized.

Later in the meeting, Chair Dwan noted that Section 8-4 of the City Charter requires all multiple-member bodies to have a Vice-Chair and requested nominations. Clerk Wells nominated Derrick Rice and Chair Dwan seconded. Derrick Rice was elected Vice-Chair on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Wells, Rice, Dwan), 0 opposed, 2 absent (Broderick, Clingan).

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1. Presentation by staff on survey of multiple-member bodies.

Project Assistants Mihika Gogate and Emily Lopez Touchy gave a presentation on the committee's purpose, the multiple-member bodies in the city, and a survey of the multiple-member bodies they had completed and the subsequent analysis. They offered suggested actions on six inactive multiple-member bodies —AIDS Commission, Gang Advisory Board, Multicultural Affairs Commission, Municipal Athletics Facilities Commission, Recreation and Youth Commission, and PILOT Advisory Task Force— based on the results of their analysis.

Chair Dwan asked if there are multiple-member bodies created by state law that the city has not adopted and Project Assistant Gogate stated that there likely are but that the committee's purpose is to review multiple-member bodies that currently exist in the city.

Chair Dwan and Derrick Rice asked about the expectations for staff support for the committee, whether committee members will take on substantive work, and what staff capacity is to respond to requests for further research. Analyst Salisbury shared that given the time sensitive nature of the work, he would prioritize requests for information made by committee members. Clerk Wells suggested that committee members should expect to take on some of the responsibility of conducting research and finding information rather than relying entirely on staff, and that the appropriate approach will depend on the question.

Chair Dwan highlighted that the committee's enabling legislation requires the committee to produce a report that includes an assessment of the functions and relevancies of the city's current multiple-member bodies, a review of their activities, the ability of the city to fill appointments to them, and recommendations regarding whether to combine or terminate them, or to create new multiple member bodies. Analyst Salisbury clarified that the survey conducted by the Project Assistants was intended to largely accomplish the first two requirements listed and that the ability to fill appointments seems most relevant if the committee recommends the creation of a new multiple-member body.

Vice-Chair Rice asked if all of the multiple-member bodies in the city are subject to open meeting law, particularly the ad hoc bodies. Project Assistant Gogate stated that multiple-member bodies generally are, and Clerk Wells clarified that ad hoc bodies are not.

Chair Dwan asked about certain Racial and Social Justice working groups and where they fit in, such as the Public Safety for All Task Force. Clerk Wells noted that those bodies are ad hoc and dissolve



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upon completion of their work and so would not be listed. Project Assistant Lopez Touchy added that the review was focused on active multiple-member bodies and did not capture multiple-member bodies that had already dissolved. Chair Dwan suggested that a list that includes bodies that existed in the previous two years would be helpful.

Chair Dwan and Vice-Chair Rice suggested that preliminary recommendations about the inactive multiple-member bodies should be held until a later meeting to give members an opportunity to digest the information from the presentation. They expressed hesitance to take action without a full understanding of what caused the bodies to become inactive.

The members discussed how to approach future meetings and whether a broad overview of all multiple-member bodies would be helpful before addressing each body for review and recommendations. Vice-Chair Rice requested a copy of the questionnaire and script for the survey interviews, and an opportunity to review and provide feedback on a questionnaire for members of multiple-member bodies before it is distributed. Vice-Chair Rice also requested advance posting of future presentations sufficient to allow members to review them ahead of the meeting.

Analyst Salisbury recommended a monthly meeting cadence, with the possibility of more frequent meetings as necessary and indicated that he would work with the Chair to set the date and agenda for the next meeting.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dwan moved to adjourn at 8:03p.m. and the motion was approved on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Wells, Rice, Dwan), 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Broderick, Clingan).