

Audit Study Group Minutes

Eugene Public Library Singer Room

8/2, 5:30-6:30pm

5:35pm Introductions

- Mayor Lucy Vinis
- Emily Mooney
- Joshua Skov
- Dave Fidanque
- Janet Calvert
- John Barofsky
- Tai Pruce-Zimmerman
- Marty Wilde
- Shanda Miller
- Norma Grier
- Sonya Carlson
- Ryan Moore
- Not Present: Phil Carrasco and Brittany Quick-Warner

Introduction by Mayor Vinis

- We will: develop an objective, factual matrix of models for a performance auditor position. This matrix will form the framework for the City Council's work session; as well as to frame the issues in public conversations.
 - Matrix to be submitted to the City Council for work session

Leadership

- Volunteers to chair/co-chair?
 - Leadership acceptance: Co-chairs Marty Wilde and Norma Grier

Process/Questions

- Current matrix:
 - City government size and structure.
 - Authority and organizational structure (e.g., who hires/elects).
 - Scope and cost of auditor role.
 - Pros and cons.
 - Any specific considerations for City of Eugene.

Questions Raised:

- In-house vs. Outsourcing the auditor?
- What is the criteria for independence in the Auditing Standard Book?

- Are auditors located outside the West?
- What has changed and what difference has having a performance auditor made in other cities?
- How long have various entities had an auditor?
- Performance vs financial auditing
- Will the auditor assess risk/improvements or cost saving? Or both?
- Are there associations (in addition to cities) and examples of case study successes with auditors?
- What extent do state laws influence the rules that the auditor must follow?
- Do these cities have hot lines?

Suggestions:

- Split “scope” (in the matrix) up into “powers of the auditor” and “finances”
- “Menu” of cities with auditors, why they are unique
 - To be able to then pick and choose who/what the committee wants more information on
- Look at recent audit reports that cities have generated
- Standardized profile for each city
 - 3 currently, local, county and portland
- We should consider more characteristics
 - What do you want to accomplish?
 - What has gone wrong that you want to fix?
 - What are the systematic failures that need fixing?
- Longer meetings to get more done

Public Comment

- Bonnie: should document the role the matrix will play in the city council decision and discussion
- Issue of comparable size cities is a restraint
- When looking at city size and budget, compare cities where health departments and schools are separate, where we have them all balkanized

George: size of city is irrelevant

- Volunteer to help with research

Brian: have you read the charter amendment and research? Yes.

- Reference to Lucy's Eugene Weekly - confused which Lucy supports - says Lucy needs to be more clear

Lany Douglas: what will be the core values of this matrix? What is the goal of this? Rely on more people's research

Bob: recommends: who hires and who fires? How it's paid for? How to establish independence of an appointed one? Portland is different in structure