

September 22, 2021
Location: Via WebEx
Sunshine Committee Members

Michael Kron, Special Counsel, Oregon Department of Justice / Chair
Kevin Gleim, Governor's Office (replaced Emily Matasar)
Charlie Fisher, OSPIRG State Director
Morgan Smith, Polk County Counsel
Karin Johnson, Independence City Recorder
Eileen Eakins, Northwest Local Government Legal Advisors LLC
Brent Walth, Journalism Professor, University of Oregon
Selena Deckelmann, Director of Engineering, Mozilla Firefox

Guests

Andy Foltz, Public Records Counsel, Department of Justice
Cameron Miles, Office of Legislative Counsel
Stephanie Clark, State Archivist, previously on PRAC
Phil Donovan, OHSU
Lori Sattenspiel, OR School Board Association
Melissa Leoni, Analyst Legislative Research Policy
Nick Budnick, SPJ

Agenda

AUDIO STREAM 0:00:00-01:05:56

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kron welcomed committee back and reviewed the action that had taken place thus far: the committee had formed subcommittees, outlined a plan to organize and review exemptions and created some recommendations for governing laws. Group was in the process of making second recommendation to Legislature. It was not put on the agenda for today's meeting to finalize. The recommendation was left in pretty good shape and should be revisited at some point.

Chair Kron forwarded letter from Nick Budnick (SPJ) which recaps work done thus far and recommends ways to move forward. **Mr. Budnick** had mentioned to **Chair Kron** that the focus for the committee may need to be on reorganizing the law to make it accessible to the people.

Mr. Albert (at PRAC) suggested to **Chair Kron** that the committee look at categorial exemptions, and refrain from line items. He also expressed some willingness to researching a model like that and bringing it to Oregon. However, he is busy during this time and might be short-staffed.

Mr. Fisher asked about meeting minutes for entirety of committee and suggested letting individual committee members offer agenda items prior to meetings and/or distribute to appropriate subcommittee (if they will be re-developed). He applauds the committees work to respond to emerging legislation. **Chair Kron** stated he will post minutes. **Mr. Smith** encourages subcommittee involvement because of its success prior to COVID.

Chair Kron shares that he has been extremely busy with his workload this last year defending the Governor's actions. He has not felt he has been able to provide adequate leadership and service to the Sunshine Committee. Prior to this meeting, he surveyed the members of the group about leadership moving forward and heard a consensus that there should be two co-chairs: one from the requestor community and one from the government community.

Mr. Fisher and **Ms. Eakins** did express they had interest in taking over leadership and expressed they would still like to have **Chair Kron** involved, since his position has the most access to stakeholders, in addition his knowledge and experience is extremely beneficial. **Ms. Eakins** and **Mr. Fisher** agreed to co-chair the committee moving forward.

Chair Kron suggested a motion for the next meeting introducing **Ms. Eakins** and **Mr. Fisher** as co-chairs. **Mr. Walth** proposed the motion and **Mr. Smith** seconded. **Chair Kron** and **Mr. Foltz** to collaborate to pass off pertinent information to new co-chairs.

Chair Kron shared how **Ms. Decklemen** inquired from him during the time of the George Floyd protests about police discipline data. He stated that if he wasn't so busy at that time, that would have been great work the committee could have focused on. – police disciplinary exemptions are broader than public employees. The Legislature may have gone in and made some changes around these exemptions. Several head nods follow in agreeance.

The Sunshine Committee is required to review exemptions by statute and make recommendations. **Ms. Eakins** shares how she read **Chair Kron's** report and agreed that new legislation continues to be implemented and does have an impact of the work the committee does. If the committee could get involved earlier in that process, it would be easier to maintain the work. Because it's been hard playing "catch up" each time after legislation gets passed. She asked for page numbers on the report.

Mr. Walth always thought the group listened to proposals and responded quickly. He wants to ensure government agencies are being heard, both government and requesting sides.

Chair Kron mentions an organizational proposal that John Kroger led indirectly a list that was being developed of categories of exemptions. Schedule those out, without a target date to be done by. **Chair Kron** to pass on subcommittee lists as well. **Ms. Eakins** asked about SB 41 (2011) and if it was adopted and was it a proposal.

Mr. Miles shares ex-officio state legislative members: Senator Kozansky, Representative Wallin, Senator Thatcher and Representative Power. That committee was not assigned for the interim so technically no standing subcommittee and unsure what that means for ex-officio members.

Committee approves third Wednesday meetings every other month just like before COVID. DOJ will continue to host meetings and providing minutes. We will just look to co-chairs for agenda. **Chair Kron** to pass on subcommittee lists as well.

Adjournment