

Bylaw 18-270 and Rules of Order

Governance Review Sub-Committee

March 25, 2019

Cameron Kroetsch

What brings me here today

- I was part of the process to reform the City's last procedural bylaw during the previous term of Council
 - I have been addressing this issue since late 2017
 - I worked closely with the Acting City Clerk to review more than 200 comments that I submitted last March; more than 90% of the eventual changes to the bylaw agreed with/were the result of my work

What brings me here today

- I think that my comments were of service to the Office of the City Clerk, and this Sub-Committee, and that they improved the bylaw
- I have more than a decade of experience working with Rules of Order, policy, and bylaws in the context of *Bourinot's Rules of Order*
- I think there's more work to do and it should start now

Easy Access to Public Votes

- Now that we have a process for electronic voting in place we need a corresponding process to ensure that it's easy for the public to review and see the results of these votes
- The current process buries these votes in reports or minutes, which makes it hard for Councillors and the public (some Councillors have commented on this publicly) to access them easily

Grouping Requests

- There's a way, often, to group requests to save a bit of time during meetings
- A good example of this is how delegation requests are dealt with; Council or Committee could put forward 1 motion to approve all delegation requests; if someone did not want to approve a particular request, that request could be taken out from the group for separate discussion (an exception)

Breaks & Adjournments

- It's often the case that breaks and adjournments can improve the flow of meetings and aid in decision-making; long meetings are hard on everyone
- Including language around breaks and meeting time maximums (for length/duration) would help everyone to better manage their time and give the proper energy and attention to decisions (long meetings can erode this)

Copyediting & Tracking

- There are always a number of small copyediting changes that need to be made during every term; things that may not have been caught
- We need time to develop a process for all changes to be tracked; I know Councillor VanderBeek & Partridge, in the last term, expressed some desire for there to be a clearer way to see changes made to the bylaw

What I'm Asking For

- That the Office of the City Clerk begin the process to review the entire bylaw now, early in the term, rather than at the end of the term so that my comments can be received and reviewed and brought back to this Sub-Committee for approval as soon as possible