



City of Columbia Falls
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Columbia Falls Study Commission Workshop Minutes July 16, 2025

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM by Chairman Piper.

Roll Call: Present: Study Commissioners Hopkins, Konopatzke, Nicosia and Piper. Also present: City Manager Hanks.

Visitors/Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Nicosia made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, second by Hopkins, motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Discussion:

Review of Draft Final Report

The Commission discussed a draft version of the Final Report prepared by Commissioner Nicosia. No substantive changes were made to the Report Summary, which recaps the Commission's process for reviewing the existing form of government.

The Commission once again discussed the community's limited involvement and perceived lack of interest in pursuing a change in government despite the majority voting to establish this Commission to study the existing form of government. Commissioners agreed that while the proposed language in the final recommendation was accurate, the report should include additional context explaining the rationale behind the recommendation. Commissioner Konopatzke proposed adding expanded language noting that the pursuit of self-governing powers would "allow for future flexibility and address currently unforeseen challenges and opportunities for the City Council."

The Commission also discussed Nicosia's decision to document her informal dissent in the report. Nicosia explained that she wanted the record to reflect her concern with recommending self-governing powers without presenting the public with a clear and immediate need for those powers.

Review of Schedule

The Commission targeted a schedule for a Public Hearing on September 4, 2025 to receive public comment on the draft version of the Final Report. On November 12th, the Commission plans to adopt the Final Report and before submission to the City Council.

Adjourn: Meeting Duly adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Chair

July 16, 2025