

1 **GREENBURGH CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION**  
2 **MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 09, 2000**  
3 **(DRAFT—November 26, 2000)**  
4

5 Present:

6 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, Harriet Leib, Erin Malloy, Rev. Wilbert Preston, Sally Schaadt, Charlotte  
7 Schienberg, Ervin Schliefer, Francis Sheehan, Lester Steinman, Mary Tobias  
8

9 Observer: Ella Preiser Secretary/Spokesperson, Council of Greenburgh Civic Associations  
10 Co-founder, Grassroots for Greenburgh  
11

12 Absent:

13 Elizabeth Daniel, Andrew Goodman, Claire Lee, Susan Mancuso, Mike Reynolds  
14  
15

16 The twelfth meeting of the commission was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in room 122, at Rochambeau  
17 School, 228 Fisher Avenue, White Plains.  
18

19 Co-chair Harriet Leib started the meeting by asking if there were any corrections to the previously e-  
20 mailed June 15, 2000 meeting minutes other than a typo she noted.  
21

22 Francis Sheehan said that the distributed minutes should indicate approval of the April 25, May 23, and  
23 June 05, 2000 meeting minutes and that he would correct the omission in the approved minutes.  
24

25 Lester Steinman made a motion to approve the June 15, 2000 minutes as amended. The motion was  
26 unanimously approved.  
27

28 Harriet Leib suggested starting with the most recent version of the Public Finance Subcommittee  
29 recommendations, labeled “Phase I”, which follows:  
30

31 **Public Finance Subcommittee Recommendation**  
32 **Meaningful Phase I The Goals of the Greenburgh Recommendations**  
33

34 The recommendations from the committee reflect an attempt to further the core goals of any campaign  
35 finance reform program while tailoring it to the needs and political realities of Greenburgh. We do not  
36 consider the recommendations to be the final word on campaign finance reform in Greenburgh; we consider  
37 this to be a meaningful beginning.  
38

39 One of the primary goals of any campaign finance system is to combat corruption and the appearance of  
40 corruption -- that includes the sense that “special” or “moneyed” interests have too much power over  
41 elected officials. Another goal of campaign finance reform is to ensure that all candidates, regardless of  
42 wealth, have the opportunity and ability to communicate with voters during the election season. We believe  
43 that these recommendations serve both of these goals and form an important first step to a more thorough  
44 reform program, should one be needed.  
45

46 First, the recusal and/or full and current disclosure requirement represents a major step toward preventing  
47 the appearance of corruption. When a town council member recuses himself or herself, the possibility that  
48 the member’s own vote has been influenced by the contribution is removed. In addition, the town is put on  
49 notice *at the time of the vote* that certain interests with business before the council have made contributions  
50 to local candidate campaigns. Similarly, if so many council members must recuse themselves that there is  
51 no quorum and only full disclosure is required, the town is again put on notice at the critical time that  
52 particular interests have made significant contributions to local officials. This timely transparency -- that is  
53 linking the political contributions with particular votes -- is critical component in fighting corruption.  
54

55 Second, the recommendations for increased and equal access to public facilities and the local cable channel  
56 form an important first step in ensuring that all candidates -- regardless of wealth or the benefits of  
57 incumbency -- will have the opportunity to get their messages to the voters of Greenburgh.

58  
59 Third, the establishment of the campaign oversight committee provides in an important link in furthering  
60 citizen confidence in Greenburgh's electoral process. By establishing and enforcing guidelines relating to  
61 the use of public resources by incumbents during the campaign season, the committee can ensure that no  
62 candidate appears to take special advantage during the election and thus, create an uneven playing field.

63  
64 Finally, the committee considered and reviewed several different models of campaign finance reform --  
65 including systems of voluntary spending limits, public funding, and lower contribution limits. As a part of  
66 that review, we also collected evidence about campaigning in Greenburgh and about how the political  
67 process is perceived by Greenburgh residents. We heard from candidates, successful and unsuccessful; we  
68 heard from members of neighborhood associations; and we held a public hearing. From those meetings, we  
69 determined that Greenburgh did not yet need its own full-scale campaign finance reform program. In part,  
70 we determined that it would be administratively cumbersome, but we also found that it was not the most  
71 effective way to address the concerns we heard expressed. Instead, we believe that the recommendations  
72 addressed in detail below form an effective first step for Greenburgh.

73  
74 Harriet Leib suggested amending the last line of the third paragraph after the dash to "[a] critical  
75 component...". The amendment was accepted.

76  
77 Charlotte Schienberg expressed concern with the word "attempt" in the first sentence since the  
78 commission is actually "addressing" campaign finance reform. The commission is not simply  
79 attempting to further the core goals of campaign finance reform, it is truly addressing those goals. She  
80 asked Lester Steinman what he thought of the wording.

81  
82 Lester Steinman said that he couldn't speak for Elizabeth Daniel, who drafted the recommendations,  
83 but he thinks she would not consider the commission's recommendations to wholly encompass what  
84 she views as campaign finance reform. It is an attempt toward campaign finance reform.

85  
86 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that she interpreted the language to mean an attempt to address reform  
87 issues, not to the full extent perhaps, but as a starting point and that is why she labeled it "Phase I".

88  
89 Charlotte Schienberg said she finds the word "attempt" inappropriate because the commission has been  
90 working hard to actually address campaign reform issues.

91  
92 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett suggested the wording, "attempt to address the core goals of campaign  
93 finance reform".

94  
95 Charlotte Schienberg said the commission should not be "wishy-washy" in its recommendations. It  
96 should state that the issues were addressed by the commission.

97  
98 Francis Sheehan said that Ms. Daniel might have used the word "attempt" to reflect the commission's  
99 inability to actually implement or address campaign finance reforms in the Town of Greenburgh since  
100 the commission is solely advisory with no power or authority to implement anything. If the Town  
101 Board decides against the commission's recommendations, then the commission's efforts will have  
102 been an "attempt" to implement local campaign finance reform and nothing more.

103  
104 Charlotte Schienberg said she agrees with Mr. Sheehan's assessment but, if that is the intent, then the  
105 entire second sentence of the first paragraph is unnecessary.

106

107 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the language may need to be reworked but the purpose of the second  
108 sentence is to indicate that additional reform measures could be considered in Phase II reforms. This is  
109 just a beginning.

110  
111 Charlotte Schienberg said that no commission has the final word on an issue. It is understood without  
112 stating it that additional reforms could later be implemented. Therefore, there is no need for the  
113 second sentence. She asked what is being conveyed by the phrase, "we consider this to be a  
114 meaningful beginning."

115  
116 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that it means that if Phase I is implemented, there could be a phase II  
117 to build on the reforms of Phase I.

118  
119 Charlotte Schienberg suggested that the commission should make positive recommendations without  
120 caveats about what may or may not occur in the future.

121  
122 Francis Sheehan said that the recommendations should be looked at as a starting point because to  
123 Elizabeth Daniel, as Lester Steinman previous said, the Phase I recommendations are limited in scope  
124 and do not cover all the campaign finance reform measures she advocates.

125  
126 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the commission will be criticized regardless of what is proposed.

127  
128 Charlotte Schienberg said that she prefers making positive recommendations as a means of avoiding  
129 such criticisms.

130  
131 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said it is important to include wording that indicates the commission's  
132 recommendations are not the final word, that more can be done.

133  
134 Lester Steinman said that the wording simply addresses the fact that the recommendations are a  
135 product of compromise and political reality. Additional reforms could very well be implemented in the  
136 future.

137  
138 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said if and when the recommendations are implemented, it leaves the door  
139 open for the commission to come together again to consider additional reforms.

140  
141 Harriet Leib said the recommendations are true campaign finance reforms.

142  
143 Charlotte Schienberg said the wording in the first sentence, "to further the core goals of any campaign  
144 finance reform program," indicates that the recommendations are truly campaign finance reforms, so  
145 why weaken the statement with the second sentence? The commission has been requested to do  
146 something that it has been done and the recommendations are now being readied for presentation. No  
147 caveats are needed.

148  
149 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that the wording leaves the door open for a Phase II.

150  
151 Lester Steinman said that Elizabeth Daniel, in drafting the recommendations, was being very honest in  
152 expressing the scope of the recommendations proposed and how far they go toward furthering the core  
153 goals of campaign finance reform that she lists in the second paragraph. Many people will not  
154 consider the Phase I reforms proposed as bringing the Town of Greenburgh to the forefront of  
155 campaign finance reform.

156

157 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the recommendations start a dialogue. They are specific to what is  
158 needed in Greenburgh.

159

160 Charlotte Schienberg said the problem is that the first paragraph is too weak.

161

162 Harriet Leib suggested that an introductory page could be attached to the recommendations that  
163 indicate the supervisor created the commission, what procedures were used, what goals were  
164 considered, etc.

165

166 Charlotte Schienberg said an introduction might help.

167

168 Harriet Leib asked if there was any objection to Catherine Lederer-Plaskett or her writing an  
169 introductory page to attach to the subcommittee reports. There was no objection.

170

171 Francis Sheehan said that the commission has yet to draft a list of local campaign initiatives, such as  
172 voluntary campaign contribution limits, that candidates must abide by in order to qualify for the  
173 significantly increased cable access proposed by the cable access subcommittee. The commission has  
174 the “nugget” of increased cable access to entice candidates to comply with proposed local reforms, but  
175 has not proposed the reforms.

176

177 Lester Steinman said that he came to the same conclusion after looking at all the subcommittee  
178 recommendations.

179

180 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that is part of the reason the public finance subcommittee labeled the  
181 recommendations “Phase I”. The subcommittee discussed the issue and didn’t come up with specific  
182 recommendations. One of Elizabeth Daniel’s suggestions was greater disclosure since spending limits  
183 are not legal.

184

185 Lester Steinman said that there was discussion at past meetings regarding voluntary guidelines to  
186 qualify for increased cable access, such as requiring a broad number of small campaign donations.

187

188 Francis Sheehan said that the commission needs to develop criteria that candidates must agree to in  
189 order to qualify as a local campaign reform candidate and, therefore, be entitled to increased cable  
190 access. Otherwise, the commission will be offering significantly enhanced cable access to candidates  
191 who accept large donations or who can afford to personally spend \$5,000 or more to run for local  
192 office. Such a candidate could afford to buy TV advertising. The increased cable access should be for  
193 those candidates who agree to certain limits and those limits should encourage many smaller donations  
194 rather than a few large donations.

195

196 Harriet Leib said criteria should be included in the commission’s recommendations.

197

198 Lester Steinman agreed. He said the commission did look at campaign finance initiatives and accepted  
199 some and rejected others. He suggested making the last paragraph of the recommendation the first  
200 paragraph because it lays the groundwork why some reforms were not pursued. The commission did  
201 look at broader campaign finance reform issues and decided against them because they weren’t right  
202 for the Town of Greenburgh at this time. However, the commission also looked at cable access reform  
203 as a means of providing an incentive for local campaign reforms that carry out the core values of  
204 campaign finance reform. Therefore, qualifying criteria for cable is needed.

205

206 Harriet Leib said that the commission could let the oversight committee develop appropriate criteria  
207 for candidates to qualify for increased cable access.

208  
209 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett questioned the need to delegate criteria development to the oversight  
210 committee. She said that local candidates should be required to obtain small donations to demonstrate  
211 community support. Since it is voluntary, there is no issue of legality.

212  
213 Lester Steinman agreed that campaign restrictions are legal if voluntarily agreed to by a candidate.

214  
215 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said her only concern is that candidates are not officially candidates until  
216 their designating petitions are certified by the Board of Elections and, therefore, may not qualify for  
217 the increased cable access.

218  
219 Francis Sheehan said that if someone publicly declares him/herself to be a candidate for local office,  
220 that person should receive the enhanced cable access if he/she otherwise meets the established local  
221 reform criteria regarding donations, etc. If the candidate does not obtain the number of signatures  
222 required to appear on the ballot, the person would lose the enhanced cable access. The policy could  
223 apply to all declared candidates.

224  
225 Harriet Leib asked what criteria should be included.

226  
227 Lester Steinman said that Elizabeth Daniel had several criteria that could be used as a model. He said  
228 this is important. Thresholds are needed to make the reforms meaningful.

229  
230 Francis Sheehan said that candidates who agree to abide by the itemized reform measures would  
231 receive enhanced cable. If a candidate chooses not to voluntarily participate, the candidate would not  
232 be a "local campaign reform candidate" and therefore not receive the incentive "nugget" of increased  
233 cable access. If someone can personally finance a campaign or finance it with large donations, the  
234 cable incentive is less of an incentive.

235  
236 Harriet Leib asked Lester Steinman to call Elizabeth Daniel regarding the reforms.

237  
238 Lester Steinman suggested that, if a meeting is proposed, it should include members from each of the  
239 different subcommittees. He said he would call her.

240  
241 Mary Tobias distributed marked copies of the Public Finance Subcommittee Recommendation. She  
242 suggested rewording the language somewhat, without changing the intent. The following is the edited  
243 version, as proposed by Mary Tobias:

244  
245 Public Finance Subcommittee Recommendation  
246 Meaningful Phase I The Goals of the Greenburgh Recommendations  
247 As modified by Mary Tobias

248  
249 The recommendations from the commission reflect an attempt to further the core goals of our campaign  
250 finance reform program tailored to the needs and political realities of Greenburgh. We do not consider the  
251 recommendations to be the final word on campaign finance reform in Greenburgh; we consider this to be a  
252 meaningful beginning.

253  
254 One of the primary goals of any campaign finance system is to combat corruption and the appearance of  
255 corruption -- including the sense that "special" or "moneyed" interests have too much power over elected  
256 officials. Another goal of campaign finance reform is to ensure that all candidates, regardless of wealth,

257 have the opportunity and ability to communicate with voters during the election season. We believe these  
258 recommendations serve both goals and form an important first step to a more thorough reform program in  
259 the future, should one be needed.

260  
261 First, the recusal and/or full and current disclosure requirement represents a major step toward preventing  
262 the appearance of corruption. When a town council member recuses himself or herself, the possibility that  
263 the member's vote has been influenced is removed. In addition, the town is put on notice *at the time of the*  
264 *vote* that certain interests with business before the council have made contributions to local candidate  
265 campaigns. Similarly, if enough council members must recuse themselves so that there is no quorum and  
266 only full disclosure is required, the town is again put on notice at the critical time that particular interests  
267 have made significant contributions to local officials. Linking political contributions with particular votes  
268 is a critical component.

269  
270 Second, recommendations for increased and equal access to public facilities and local cable channels form  
271 an important first step in ensuring that all candidates -- regardless of wealth or benefits of incumbency --  
272 will have the opportunity to get their messages to the voters of Greenburgh.

273  
274 Third, the establishment of the campaign oversight committee should ensure citizen confidence in  
275 Greenburgh's electoral process. By establishing and enforcing guidelines relating to the use of public  
276 resources by incumbents during the campaign season, the committee ensures that no candidate may take  
277 special advantage during the election, creating an uneven playing field.

278  
279 Finally, the committee considered and reviewed several different models of campaign finance reform --  
280 including systems of voluntary spending limits, public funding, and lower contribution limits. As a part of  
281 that review, we also collected evidence about campaigning in Greenburgh and about how the political  
282 process is perceived by Greenburgh residents. We heard from candidates, successful and unsuccessful; we  
283 heard from members of neighborhood associations; and we held a public hearing. From those meetings, we  
284 determined that Greenburgh does not yet need its own full-scale campaign finance reform program. In part,  
285 we determined that it would be administratively cumbersome, and we also found it was not the most  
286 effective way to address the concerns expressed. Instead, we believe that the recommendations addressed  
287 in detail below form an effective first step for Greenburgh.

288  
289 Harriet Leib asked Mary Tobias to review the changes, which she did. After commenting on the  
290 changes through the second paragraph, none of which changed the meaning of the text, Harriet Leib  
291 said the changes were fine.

292  
293 Mary Tobias said it was not her intent to change the meaning of the recommendations, only to tighten  
294 the language somewhat, which is what she had done professionally prior to retiring.

295  
296 Lester Steinman agreed with the changes and agreed to fax the marked copy to Elizabeth Daniel for her  
297 consideration.

298  
299 Harriet Leib said the next agenda item is to review the Ethics Subcommittee Recommendation. She  
300 asked for any comments.

301  
302 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked if the change she had suggested in advance of the meeting regarding  
303 recusal was included in the draft. She had asked the following clause be changed: "In the event that  
304 the application of this provision shall require recusal of two or more members of the Town Board on  
305 any particular vote, resulting in an inability to obtain the required number of votes to take action on a  
306 matter, ..." Her suggested wording is as follows: "In the event that the application of this provision  
307 shall result in an inability to obtain the required number of votes for the Town Board to take action on  
308 a matter, ..."

309

310 Lester Steinman said Catherine Lederer-Plaskett's requested revision has been incorporated into the  
311 draft distributed at the meeting, which follows:

312

313 Ethics Subcommittee Recommendation

314 Draft as of November 9, 2000

315

316 To promote strong public confidence in the integrity and fairness of the election process in the Town of  
317 Greenburgh; to insure that the performance of elected Town officials in their assigned responsibilities is not  
318 unduly influenced by large campaign contributions; to protect against the misuse of public funds for  
319 partisan political purposes by monitoring taxpayer financed mailings and the use of Town staff, office  
320 amenities and communication facilities during the campaign season (June-November) to insure that such  
321 mailings and uses are in furtherance of a proper public purpose; and to guarantee that all candidates for  
322 Town office have reasonable access to Greenburgh Cable Television during the campaign season; the  
323 Greenburgh Campaign Finance Commission recommends the establishment of a Fair Election Practices  
324 Committee ("FEPC") for the Town of Greenburgh to oversee election campaigns for local Town offices and  
325 to address ethical and financial issues that arise during and as a result of those campaigns.

326

327 The FEPC would consist of five (5) members appointed by the Town Board. Each of the four (4) political  
328 parties with the highest registration in the Town as of November 1 in the year of the presidential election as  
329 determined by the records of the New York State Board of Elections, would be entitled to one  
330 representative on the FEPC to be selected by the Town Board from two candidates submitted by the  
331 respective Chairs of these parties. The fifth member of the FEPC would be a representative of the League  
332 of Women Voters of the Rivertowns selected by the Town Board from two candidates submitted by the  
333 League.

334

335 The term of office for each member would be five (5) years provided, however, that the first members so  
336 appointed would serve staggered terms with the League's initial representative serving a five year term and  
337 the political parties' representatives serving four, three, two and one year initial terms in descending order  
338 of their respective registration numbers in the Town. The FEPC Chair would be chosen by the membership.  
339 A member could be removed for cause by the Town Board. All actions taken by the FEPC would require  
340 the approval of a minimum of three members. In addition to the establishment of the FEPC, the  
341 Commission recommends that the Town Board adopt legislation necessary to eliminate potential conflicts  
342 of interest and to promote a level playing field for all candidates as follows:

343

344 1. Where an election campaign related issue coming before the FEPC also involves allegations of substance  
345 regarding conduct which may be in violation of the Town of Greenburgh's Code of Ethics, the  
346 investigation of such alleged ethics code violation would be referred by the FEPC to the Town's Board  
347 of Ethics. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Code of Ethics, no additional referral  
348 from the Town Board would be required for the Board of Ethics to consider and opine on the alleged  
349 misconduct.

350

351 2. A Town elected official shall recuse him/herself from voting on any application made by an individual  
352 or entity which, during the twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding the date of the vote, has  
353 made contributions and/or gifts to the official in the aggregate of \$5 00 or more. In the event, that the  
354 application of this provision shall result in an inability to obtain the required number of votes for  
355 the Town Board to take action on a matter, the affected member or members may then vote provided  
356 they first publicly disclose at the meeting the total amount contributed by the applicant during the  
357 preceding twenty-four (24) months.

358

359 3. The use of an incumbent's name, voice, or likeness in public (taxpayer financed) print or broadcast  
360 advertisements pertaining to any Town of Greenburgh entity or service shall be prohibited during the  
361 campaign season (June-November) immediately prior to the November election at which the incumbent  
362 is running for reelection.

363

364 4. In Town facilities where campaigning is permitted, those Town facilities shall be available to all  
365 candidates for Town office regardless of their residency.  
366

367 Francis Sheehan said he was concerned that the clause "reasonable access to Greenburgh Cable  
368 Television" could be misconstrued since what is actually proposed is a total revamp of Greenburgh  
369 cable access, making it independently controlled by a not-for-profit organization. The term  
370 "reasonable" is too subjective. Improving cable access was, by far, the most common request  
371 commission members heard from the public. The commission's work will be viewed as a success or  
372 failure based on whether cable access becomes independently controlled so it can be used as an  
373 incentive for voluntary compliance with proposed campaign finance reforms. He suggested replacing  
374 the word "reasonable" with "independently controlled".  
375

376 Lester Steinman said that the first paragraph is simply an overview. It does not have to have the same  
377 specifics as are included elsewhere. The wording in the introduction is meant to be generic. What the  
378 commission is proposing is reasonable and the methodology of how to make it reasonable is spelled  
379 out elsewhere by the commission. It does not have to be spelled out in every paragraph.  
380

381 Harriet Leib said that the commission's cable access recommendations are clearly specified elsewhere  
382 and need not be repeated in the first paragraph.  
383

384 Lester Steinman said that if someone wants to take a clause here and there and reference them in  
385 isolation there is no way for the commission to prevent that. There is no need for a tortured proposal.  
386 The entire proposal must be considered.  
387

388 Harriet Leib agreed.  
389

390 Francis Sheehan said that as long as "reasonable" means the proposal by the Cable Access  
391 Subcommittee he has no objection to not changing the wording. He then suggested inserting in the  
392 first paragraph the clause "and candidates names appearing thereon" so that the clause reads "during  
393 the campaign season to insure that such mailings, uses and candidates' names appearing thereon are in  
394 furtherance of a proper public purpose." He said the mailings may be necessary and proper but the use  
395 of incumbents' names on those mailings during the campaign season may not be necessary or  
396 appropriate. The wording does not reflect that.  
397

398 Lester Steinman said again that the introduction is meant to be generic. The restrictions on the use of  
399 incumbent-candidates' names are specified later in the proposal.  
400

401 Francis Sheehan suggested including the clause "in an election year" in the parentheses in the first  
402 paragraph after "June-November". It appears later but should be included where campaign season is  
403 first defined.  
404

405 Lester Steinman agreed with the amendment.  
406

407 Harriet Leib suggested selecting the members of the oversight committee based on a gubernatorial  
408 election year instead of a presidential election year.  
409

410 Charlotte Schienberg and Lester Steinman agreed.  
411

412 Ervin Schliefer asked what would happen if a party chair decides not to recommend someone to the  
413 oversight committee.

414  
415 Francis Sheehan said that would not be a wise position for the party to take.  
416  
417 Lester Steinman said there would be a vacancy.  
418  
419 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that the question is interesting because it would mean the committee  
420 consists of a smaller number of members, perhaps an even number, making the remaining members  
421 more powerful. She asked what would happen if there was no local party chair.  
422  
423 Erin Malloy said that the recommendation does not specify that a local party chair must make the  
424 recommendations. If there is no local party chair, the county party chair could make the  
425 recommendation.  
426  
427 Francis Sheehan asked why the Ethics Subcommittee decided upon using the number of registered  
428 Greenburgh voters in each party on November 1<sup>st</sup> to select members of the oversight committee. He  
429 said the number of registered voters changes daily and even moment-to-moment, as the Board of  
430 Elections clocks in voter registration forms. The Board of Elections does not publish the number of  
431 registered voters at the end of each day so the actual number registered in each party on November 1  
432 could be difficult to accurately determine and subject to controversy. He had recommended to the  
433 Cable Access Subcommittee that a similar protocol as used by the Board of Elections to determine  
434 ballot position be used and the subcommittee approved the recommendation. The cable subcommittee  
435 proposes selecting the four political parties to serve based on the parties that polled for its  
436 gubernatorial candidate the four highest number of votes in the Town of Greenburgh at the last  
437 preceding gubernatorial election. The Board of Elections publishes books listing the number of votes  
438 received by each gubernatorial candidate by election district, making the determination of the voting in  
439 Greenburgh unambiguous and not subject to debate.  
440  
441 Harriet Leib suggested being consistent.  
442  
443 Lester Steinman agreed and took the wording from the cable access subcommittee recommendation.  
444  
445 Francis Sheehan recommended a public hearing be required before the Town Board can remove a  
446 member of the oversight committee for cause. A public hearing is required before the Town Board can  
447 remove a Planning Board, Zoning Board or Antenna Review Board member for cause. The same  
448 standard should be used for removing a member of the campaign oversight committee. He  
449 recommended that the clause "following a public hearing" be inserted after "A member could be  
450 removed for cause..."  
451  
452 Lester Steinman accepted the amendment but said that the amendment also falls under the category of  
453 unnecessary specificity since legislation is not being proposed, simply guidelines upon which to  
454 generate legislation.  
455  
456 Francis Sheehan said he is concerned that the word "campaigning" in item four is too ambiguous and  
457 does not address the concerns raised by the public, i.e., incumbents can use town-facilities and town-  
458 sponsored social events for campaigning while excluding challengers. The commission had heard  
459 from a challenger that she was excluded from the Steinberg Center, the town's senior center, even  
460 though incumbent-opponents had just left the center.  
461  
462 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that challengers, even if they could enter town facilities, could not  
463 bring any literature with them.

464  
465 Francis Sheehan said the recommendation as written would place the burden on a challenger to prove  
466 the incumbents were "campaigning" at events the challenger was barred from attending. It is an  
467 unreasonable burden. He said all candidates should be permitted access to a town-sponsored event or  
468 town facility if campaign-related materials, such as petitions, buttons or literature, are permitted at the  
469 event.  
470  
471 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said campaigning is prohibited in Town Hall. The intent is that if  
472 campaigning is not specifically prohibited then it is permitted.  
473  
474 Lester Steinman said an incumbent could wear a campaign button outside a building where inside  
475 campaigning is inappropriate. If one candidate is allowed to campaign there then all candidates should  
476 be permitted.  
477  
478 Francis Sheehan said the problem occurs when an incumbent-candidate is walking around on town  
479 property with a big campaign button or literature in the months preceding the election. It is  
480 campaigning.  
481  
482 Charlotte Schienberg said the issue involves the use of campaign paraphernalia, such as buttons,  
483 bumper stickers, and literature.  
484  
485 Lester Steinman said that the commission is establishing guidelines for legislation, not the actual  
486 legislation. The term "campaigning" would be defined in the legislation. The oversight committee  
487 would oversee disputes regarding fair campaigning.  
488  
489 Francis Sheehan said that a challenger would have the burden of coming up with a definition of  
490 "campaigning" in the middle of a campaign. By the time the controversy is resolved, the election  
491 could be over.  
492  
493 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked Francis Sheehan what language he would prefer to address his  
494 concerns.  
495  
496 Francis Sheehan suggested inserting the clause "or campaign materials" after the word "campaigning"  
497 so that it would read: "In Town facilities where campaigning or campaign materials are permitted."  
498  
499 Charlotte Schienberg said that wording should handle all kinds of campaign materials.  
500  
501 Lester Steinman included the amendment in the draft.  
502  
503 Harriet Leib asked if there were any other comments, suggestions, or changes to the Ethics  
504 Subcommittee recommendations. Hearing none, she suggested moving on to the Cable Subcommittee  
505 recommendation which follows:  
506  
507 Cable Subcommittee Recommendation  
508 Draft as of November 05, 2000  
509  
510 To ensure fair and equal access to the Town of Greenburgh's Cable Access Television (GCAT) channels,  
511 including access by candidates for local town office, and to provide an incentive for local campaign finance  
512 reform initiatives, the following recommendations need to be implemented:  
513

- 514 ➤ Creation of an independent, not-for-profit Cable Access Television Board (CATB) similar to the  
515 structure and powers of Larchmont/Mamaroneck's cable access board  
516

517 To oversee the creation of the independent, not-for-profit cable access board, an interim multi-partisan  
518 cable access commission should be established. The interim commission should consist of five  
519 members, one recommended by the local League of Women Voters, and one member from each of the  
520 four political parties which polled for its gubernatorial candidate the four highest number of votes in the  
521 Town of Greenburgh at the last preceding gubernatorial election, as certified by the Board of Elections.  
522 The local League of Women Voters and the local chair of each of the four qualifying political parties  
523 should forward the names of two candidates to the Greenburgh Town Board, which should appoint one  
524 of the two candidates nominated by each group. The five-member multi-partisan interim cable  
525 commission should elect its chair and publicly notice all meetings, which should be open to the public.  
526

527 The interim commission should be charged with (1) creating the independent, not-for-profit CATB's  
528 bylaws and rules of procedure, (2) determining how the board should be composed and selected, and (3)  
529 filing for and obtaining its not-for-profit classification.  
530

531 The interim commission should be disbanded once the Greenburgh CATB has been created. The CATB  
532 should then continue operation pursuant to its not-for-profit status, bylaws and rules of procedure.  
533

534 The CATB should be mandated to oversee and manage all aspects of the GCAT system, including  
535 receipt and disbursement of cable franchise fees, which should be directed toward improving the town's  
536 cable access system, as is the case in Larchmont/Mamaroneck.  
537

538 The CATB should be mandated to make quality training facilities, equipment, and 24 hr/day channel  
539 space available on an open, non-discriminatory basis to residents of the Town of Greenburgh and  
540 maximize the use of GCAT resources.  
541

542 The GCAT system should be funded by fifty percent (50%) of the town's cable franchise fees, phased in  
543 over four years, 20% in the first year and 10% additional in each of the following three years.  
544 (Larchmont/Mamaroneck directs 100% of cable franchise fees toward improving its cable access  
545 system.)  
546

- 547 ➤ Provision of a baseline amount of fair and equal access to all candidates  
548

549 The CATB's rules of procedure should mandate that the amount of studio and air time provided  
550 candidates be not less than that provided any other Greenburgh host/producer. This baseline level of  
551 access should be provided a candidate even if he/she decides to not participate in campaign finance  
552 reform initiatives. (The initiatives are outlined in the Public Finance Subcommittee's  
553 recommendations.)  
554

- 555 ➤ Provision of significantly increased cable access time as an incentive to candidates to voluntarily agree  
556 to local campaign finance reform initiatives  
557

558 The CATB's rules of procedure should mandate that any candidate who agrees to abide by all local  
559 campaign finance reform initiatives (outlined elsewhere) should be entitled to have his/her show aired in  
560 a continuous, non-stop, 24-hour loop on Saturdays and Sundays during the campaign season (June 1st to  
561 the date of the general election) along with the shows/segments of all other local candidates agreeing to  
562 the reforms. This air time would be in addition to the baseline access provided all candidates.  
563

- 564 ➤ Formation of a Fair Election Practices Committee (FEPC)  
565

566 The FEPC should be created as recommended by the Ethics Subcommittee and be charged, in part, with  
567 overseeing fair and equal baseline and incentive-based cable access during the campaign season, and  
568 mediating disputes related thereto.

569  
570 Lester Steinman said he does not remember the interim commission being previously recommended.  
571  
572 Harriet Leib asked why an interim commission is needed.  
573  
574 Francis Sheehan, substituting for Claire Lee, cable subcommittee chair, said the subcommittee tried to  
575 find a way to create a politically independent entity in a very political environment. The subcommittee  
576 originally thought of having the oversight committee create the independent body but felt there was a  
577 need for people with expertise or at least interest in cable access issues. Also, the commission did not  
578 want to overwhelm the oversight committee since the interim commission would be responsible for  
579 obtaining not-for-profit status for the independent body, establishing its rules of procedure, developing  
580 membership criteria, etc. It is a lot of work to add onto the responsibilities of the oversight committee.  
581 Therefore, the cable subcommittee came up with the idea of having an interim commission that would  
582 disband after its work is done. The oversight committee is ongoing. The bottom-line is the  
583 subcommittee was trying to develop a methodology for creating an independent cable access system  
584 similar to the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Community Television (LMC-TV) system, after the fact, after  
585 the municipality has seized control of it. LMC-TV was created soon after cable was proposed in the  
586 municipality so there was no need for them to transfer control from the municipality, as is currently  
587 proposed in Greenburgh. The subcommittee wants to create an independent cable organization that not  
588 only has the appearance of independence but is actually independent.  
589  
590 Harriet Leib suggested creating the cable access board using the cable subcommittee's criteria for the  
591 interim commission. She questioned the need for the interim step.  
592  
593 Lester Steinman and Charlotte Schienberg agreed.  
594  
595 Francis Sheehan said that the cable subcommittee does not envision a political body, even a multi-  
596 partisan board, controlling cable access. LMC-TV is non-political. The subcommittee only wants to  
597 use the interim multi-partisan commission to create the framework of the independent organization and  
598 then disband the multi-partisan commission, removing party affiliation influences. The oversight  
599 committee will always be multi-partisan and always subject to party influences. Similar to the League  
600 of Women Voters, the independent cable board, once created, should not be influenced by the party  
601 affiliation of individual members. It is difficult to create a truly independent cable access system from  
602 a politically controlled cable access system, in a political environment, but the subcommittee did the  
603 best it could. The subcommittee tried to address Ella Preiser's many questions regarding cable access  
604 issues and determined the best way to answer most of them is to have a non-partisan cable board  
605 address the issues. However, the main challenge for the subcommittee was how to create the non-  
606 partisan organization, considering the Greenburgh Town Board currently controls cable access.  
607  
608 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett asked if the oversight committee could handle the creation of the non-  
609 partisan board because there is a limited number of people in the community willing to volunteer.  
610 Creating additional boards creates the problem of filling them. She is concerned there would not be  
611 anyone to fill the interim commission.  
612  
613 Francis Sheehan said the campaign oversight committee will be busy enough handling campaign  
614 related activities. The committee would be overwhelmed if it were charged with handling cable access  
615 as well. If there are too few nominees for the interim cable commission, the party chairs could appoint  
616 the same members to both the interim cable access commission and the campaign oversight board.  
617 However, the party chairs should be given the option of appointing members with technical expertise  
618 to the interim cable access commission. It would be their call.

619  
620 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the oversight committee would be active during the campaign season  
621 and inactive at other times. The oversight committee could address cable access issues between  
622 campaign periods. Local campaigns are every other year. It would be a way of keeping the committee  
623 together as in integral group year to year. Setting up bylaws is very tedious and time-consuming but  
624 using up the limited number of community volunteers for a third board is a major concern that must be  
625 considered.

626  
627 Harriet Leib suggested using the oversight committee to create the cable board.

628  
629 Lester Steinman said the oversight committee would not actually write cable access board bylaws. It  
630 would hire consultants to write them and to create the not-for-profit organization. Part-time volunteers  
631 would not do that kind of work.

632  
633 Erin Malloy said the consultants would have to be given a charge and then the oversight committee can  
634 make the final decisions. The oversight committee does not have to have much expertise in the issue.

635  
636 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that no one objects to creating an independent cable board. The  
637 concern is regarding the labor intensity of having an interim commission.

638  
639 Lester Steinman said an unpopular option is to allow the Town Board to create the cable board given  
640 specific criteria that it must follow to achieve a not-for-profit Larchmont-type cable board. If the not-  
641 for-profit cable board does not follow the rules, it is subject to lawsuits.

642  
643 Francis Sheehan said important decisions need to be made in how the town's cable board should be  
644 constituted. The subcommittee proposes the interim commission make those decisions. The Town of  
645 Greenburgh cannot simply adopt the membership criteria used by LMC-TV, which is a hybrid of three  
646 municipalities. The Board of Directors of LMC-TV must be composed of members from three  
647 municipalities, which would not be the case in Greenburgh. There are tough decisions to be made and  
648 a campaign oversight committee could be overwhelmed with the added charge.

649  
650 Lester Steinman said appropriately modifying LMC-TV's procedures is an easy concern to address.  
651 The essence of what is intended can be accomplished by spelling out guidelines that are to be followed.

652  
653 Harriet Leib said she is concerned the process of creating the independent cable board is getting too  
654 cumbersome. There is also the issue of ownership. If someone owns the process, seeing it though to  
655 completion becomes very important.

656  
657 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said, as a compromise, the oversight committee should create the  
658 independent cable board, not the Town Board or the interim commission. She agrees with Lester  
659 Steinman that someone can sue if a town-appointed cable board does not act as charged but that is an  
660 overwhelming option for the average person. Regarding overburdening the oversight committee, if the  
661 oversight committee finds the amount of work too burdensome, the oversight committee could create a  
662 subcommittee to look into cable issues. Once the cable board is created, the oversight committee  
663 would only get involved if there was a campaign-related cable access dispute.

664  
665 Lester Steinman said the problem with letting the campaign oversight committee create the cable board  
666 is that the oversight committee is responsible for handling campaign-related disputes, including those  
667 involving fair cable access. It is not appropriate to have the oversight committee be the judge and the  
668 jury, which it would be if it created the entity involved in the dispute.

669  
670 Erin Malloy said a candidate who does not think the cable access board is fair would have to appeal to  
671 the campaign oversight committee that created it. The Town Board is the legislature and could create  
672 the cable board.  
673  
674 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the commission has put a lot of faith into its proposed campaign  
675 oversight committee, not even knowing who will be serving on it. It may not be well-founded, but it is  
676 being given tremendous responsibility. Considering everything else, giving it the additional  
677 responsibility for creating a cable access board is not unreasonable, particularly since creating a cable  
678 board is a one-time event for the oversight committee. It is better to remove the responsibility from the  
679 Town Board so the public will have faith in the board. The same people will not serve continuously on  
680 the campaign oversight committee. If there is a dispute regarding cable, there may be different  
681 members on the campaign oversight committee than those who were on the committee when the cable  
682 board was created. Also, the dispute may be that the rules created for the cable board are not being  
683 properly enforced. The oversight committee is in a good position to act on such disputes. The one  
684 degree of separation, since the oversight committee is not elected, is helpful.  
685  
686 Harriet Leib summarized the three options for who could create the independent cable access board:  
687 the interim commission recommended by the cable subcommittee, the Town Board, and the proposed  
688 campaign oversight committee.  
689  
690 Francis Sheehan said that the decision of the commission will define the commission in the public's  
691 eyes. Cable access fairness was the number one issue raised by the public.  
692  
693 Rev. Wilbert Preston said the Town Board is an elected board with arbitration powers capable of  
694 handling disputes involving cable.  
695  
696 Erin Malloy asked what would be the problem if the Town Board created the cable board, other than a  
697 sense by some that the Town Board cannot create a fair board.  
698  
699 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that the commission is trying to address perception, even if it is not  
700 reality. The campaign oversight committee will hire someone to create the cable board's bylaws.  
701 There will be money for it since some of the cable franchise fees will be transferred toward cable  
702 operations. It will not be an overwhelming task.  
703  
704 Erin Malloy said she agrees with the concept of having the Town Board create the cable access board  
705 but the atmosphere is poisoned against having them do it.  
706  
707 Lester Steinman said that if the Town Board is not going to create the cable access board then the  
708 campaign oversight committee should do it to avoid creating another board.  
709  
710 Harriet Leib said that now that the creation of the proposed campaign oversight committee is based on  
711 the same criteria as the cable access subcommittee suggested for the interim committee, it should not  
712 make much difference if the campaign oversight committee also handles the creation of the cable  
713 board.  
714  
715 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the more complicated the proposal gets, the lower the chance there is  
716 for adoption.  
717

718 Erin Malloy said that the ultimate responsibility falls on the Town Board to authorize the powers of the  
719 campaign oversight committee. The Town Board must be willing to give over its control of cable to  
720 the committee.

721  
722 Lester Steinman said the Town Board will have to include in its charge to the campaign oversight  
723 committee the committee's ability to create an independent, not-for-profit cable board. It is a  
724 delegation of the Town Board's authority.

725  
726 Harriet Leib said that all these recommendations are dependent on the Town Board adopting them. It  
727 is the Town Board's call ultimately.

728  
729 Harriet Leib asked if there was any objection to having the campaign oversight committee create the  
730 cable access board. Hearing none, she asked Francis Sheehan to modify the cable subcommittee's  
731 recommendations to reflect the change.

732  
733 Harriet Leib suggested calling the oversight committee the Election Oversight Commission to  
734 distinguish it from the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee.

735  
736 Lester Steinman said he called it the Greenburgh Fair Elections Practices Committee in the  
737 subcommittee recommendation.

738  
739 A lively debate ensued with every possible permutation of the wording being offered with the goal of  
740 trying to distinguish the town's committee name from the name of the Westchester County committee.  
741 Concerns were raised regarding calling the town's committee a fair "election" committee even though  
742 the charge would be for the entire campaign season. Nevertheless, to clearly distinguish the town's  
743 committee from the county's committee, the commission ultimately decided to recommend the name  
744 "Greenburgh Fair Elections Practices Board".

745  
746 Harriet Leib said the next item on the agenda is Supervisor Feiner's request. She asked Catherine  
747 Lederer-Plaskett to discuss the request.

748  
749 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said she received a phone call from Supervisor Feiner. He called her about  
750 the commission. He was concerned there was no money involved in the recommendations. Supervisor  
751 Feiner said the Town Board would be more likely to pass the commission's recommendations if  
752 financing of campaigns was involved. He strongly believes that campaigns should be taxpayer funded.  
753 It is a national issue. She explained to the supervisor that the commission had considered taxpayer  
754 funding of campaigns and rejected the idea since the public did not support it. The public expressed  
755 concern over increased tax burdens. He told her that he would put a campaign funding referendum on  
756 the ballot next time regardless of any recommendations the commission may offer. He welcomes the  
757 support of the commission but will act on the referendum without it. He wanted to meet with the  
758 commission or meet with her privately to further discuss his proposal. She declined to meet with him  
759 privately but did offer to bring his request to the full commission. She said he did form the  
760 commission so she would like to have him come to a commission meeting to present his proposal.

761  
762 Sally Schaadt said that Supervisor Feiner has shown his hand. The commission has not done what he  
763 expected it to do so he is going to do it anyway.

764  
765 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said Supervisor Feiner told her he would try to sell the commission's  
766 recommendations to the Town Board if it includes his proposed financing of campaigns and he  
767 wouldn't try to sell it if the financing is not included. Nevertheless, she suggested taking the high

768 road. Not one person spoke at the public hearing favoring public financing but he should be invited to  
769 a meeting.

770  
771 Harriet Leib suggested having him attend a meeting so the commission can explain to him the  
772 reasoning behind not recommending public financing of campaigns.

773  
774 Erin Malloy said she is a strong believer in public financing of campaigns. It was very difficult for her  
775 to accept the fact that funding of campaigns in Greenburgh was not workable.

776  
777 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that Elizabeth Daniel also had a difficult time with the same issue. Ms.  
778 Lederer-Plaskett said the supervisor should be invited.

779  
780 Sally Schaadt said the supervisor's comments demonstrate why there is no wonder that the Town  
781 Board cannot be trusted.

782  
783 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that the supervisor did not try to hide what he was seeking. She agrees  
784 with Harriet Leib that it would be helpful for the commission to explain to the supervisor why funding  
785 of campaigns is not being recommended and it would be helpful for Erin Malloy to explain to him that  
786 she supports public funding in general but came to realize it wouldn't work in Greenburgh at this time.

787  
788 Harriet Leib said the supervisor probably thinks it is only the members of the commission who think  
789 that public financing is undesirable. He needs to be made aware that the lack of support for public  
790 financing of local candidates is a widespread feeling. The commission has an obligation to inform him  
791 of its findings.

792  
793 Sally Schaadt said the supervisor's request was predictable. Supervisor Feiner knew what he was  
794 going to do all along, regardless of the commission's recommendations.

795  
796 Erin Malloy said that the supervisor established the commission in a manner that did not dictate that a  
797 public financing recommendation would be the result and he cannot dictate such a recommendation to  
798 the commission now. He should be invited even if what he hears is a big disappointment to him.

799  
800 Charlotte Schienberg said she was not present when Supervisor Feiner spoke to the commission. She  
801 asked if he had presented the same proposal to the commission when he previously spoke.

802  
803 Harriet Leib said he did.

804  
805 Charlotte Schienberg questioned why the commission should hear the same proposal.

806  
807 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the commission had not finalized its recommendations at the time.

808  
809 Rev. Wilbert Preston said the commission had not heard from the public and had not reached any  
810 conclusions at the time it heard from the supervisor.

811  
812 Erin Malloy said the commission was in a fact-finding mode at the time.

813  
814 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said she submitted a letter to the Town requesting the commission be  
815 placed on the December 13, 2000, agenda. The reason she called the supervisor was to tell him she  
816 had not received a response. It was during that phone call that the supervisor made the request. He did  
817 form the committee and deserves to hear the commission's conclusions, conclusions which had not

818 been formed when he last appeared. She asked if he would really want to put a referendum on the  
819 ballot that would not pass.

820  
821 Harriet Leib said, if the commission hopes for the Town Board to accept its recommendations, it is  
822 important to invite the supervisor to speak.

823  
824 Mary Tobias said the supervisor appointed the town attorney, Susan Mancuso, to the commission with  
825 the job of selling the commission on the supervisor's proposal for public financing, which she was  
826 unable to do. Ms. Tobias said she does not envy Ms. Mancuso, who she likes very much.

827  
828 Erin Malloy said there is nothing inappropriate about the town attorney being on the commission.  
829 Every commission member represents some group.

830  
831 Francis Sheehan said that the commission's proposal does involve taxpayer-financing of campaigns in  
832 that the recommendations call for shifting cable franchise fees from the town's general fund to a  
833 dedicated fund to ensure quality cable that can be used as an incentive for local campaign reform  
834 initiatives. There is no doubt that there is a money element involved in the commission's  
835 recommendations.

836  
837 Harriet Leib said that what the commission needs to do is convince the supervisor that there is no local  
838 support for a referendum.

839  
840 Charlotte Schienberg asked why not invite the supervisor to a meeting with two or three commission  
841 members, rather than add another meeting to the commission's long list of meetings?

842  
843 Erin Malloy said that the supervisor will not change anyone's mind at this point.

844  
845 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said that Lester Steinman and Elizabeth Daniel drafted the proposals that  
846 the commission is acting on. Supervisor Feiner needs to hear that the proposals were not written at a  
847 council meeting. They were written by commission members in a non-confrontational manner. There  
848 is a value in numbers. It should be more than Harriet Leib and she who meet with the supervisor. Erin  
849 Malloy is very committed to campaign financing. Ms. Malloy can much better explain why the  
850 commission is not recommending financing even though she personally believes in it.

851  
852 Charlotte Schienberg said the problem is that the commission would be reviving an issue that has  
853 already being thoroughly discussed and resolved. It is too late.

854  
855 Francis Sheehan said that if there is going to be a meeting with the supervisor it should not be with  
856 only two or three members. It would place too much responsibility on those members to sell the  
857 supervisor with the commission's position regarding taxpayer financing of local campaigns.

858  
859 Harriet Leib said she does not want to refuse the supervisor's request to be heard.

860  
861 Erin Malloy agreed. The supervisor did not hide his desire for financing campaigns when he created  
862 the commission or when he made his presentation to the commission. He should hear the  
863 recommendations directly from the commission.

864  
865 Harriet Leib said she thought the meeting would be the commission's last, but another meeting is  
866 needed to address the reform initiatives. She asked Lester Steinman what he thought of inviting the  
867 supervisor.

868  
869 Lester Steinman said he would go along with the consensus of the commission.  
870  
871 Ervin Schliefer said he agrees with Erin Malloy's comments regarding financing campaigns. He  
872 supports financing campaigns but realizes it does not have support. The supervisor should be invited  
873 even though he will not like what the commission has to tell him.  
874  
875 Harriet Leib said it is important for both Erin Malloy and Ervin Schliefer to be present at the meeting  
876 so the supervisor can hear from them directly, to learn that Erin and Ervin are following the will of the  
877 people in deciding against public financing of local campaigns.  
878  
879 Charlotte Schienberg said she was concerned that a door was being needlessly opened by inviting the  
880 supervisor. She asked Catherine Lederer-Plaskett to describe the supervisor's intensity when he made  
881 his request.  
882  
883 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the phone conversation was very lengthy.  
884  
885 Harriet Leib said the commission needs to invite the supervisor to keep the lines of communication  
886 open.  
887  
888 Rev. Wilbert Preston said meeting with the supervisor would be a positive measure for the commission  
889 to pursue. The supervisor may not realize how the public feels. A referendum or any other proposal  
890 will not change the minds of Greenburgh residents to get them to support public financing of  
891 campaigns.  
892  
893 Harriet Leib said Rev. Wilbert Preston's comment would be helpful to the supervisor.  
894  
895 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said she was surprised that no one asked for taxpayer financing of  
896 campaigns. The primary concerns were access and exposure. It means something that no one  
897 requested campaign financing be part of the recommendations.  
898  
899 Rev. Wilbert Preston said the absence of public requests for campaign financing is probably due to a  
900 realization by the speakers that there isn't support for it in Greenburgh.  
901  
902 Charlotte Schienberg said the county legislators came to the same conclusion for the county. There  
903 were years of bickering and because financing was included in the proposal, it didn't go forward. The  
904 county's campaign reforms were defeated for that reason.  
905  
906 Harriet Leib agreed. She said she agrees with Erin Malloy's comments. She suggested Tuesday,  
907 November 28, 2000, 7:00 p.m., for the next commission meeting. There was general agreement with  
908 the date.  
909  
910 Mary Tobias asked if the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the last commission meeting.  
911  
912 Harriet Leib said the meeting would be the last meeting before the recommendations are presented to  
913 the Town Board. She suggested that Catherine Lederer-Plaskett and she make the presentation to the  
914 Town Board. They will write an introduction to the recommendations, which won't be read verbatim.  
915  
916 Lester Steinman said the recommendations have bullets. The bullets could be read.  
917

918 Charlotte Schienberg suggested discussing how the commission was created, how the subcommittees  
919 were created and what recommendations were generated.  
920

921 Mary Tobias asked what role the commission would have after presenting the recommendations to the  
922 Town Board.  
923

924 Harriet Leib said the commission should publicize its findings. There is nothing else the commission  
925 can do.  
926

927 Mary Tobias said she is concerned that the recommendations will not be acted upon and the  
928 commission will look silly for having spent so much time trying to make campaigns fair. The  
929 commission needs some form of follow-up watchdog procedures. The supervisor intends to put a  
930 referendum on the ballot regardless of the commission's findings.  
931

932 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said if the supervisor wants to put a referendum on the ballot then some of  
933 the members can get together and present an agreed upon response to the media regarding whether to  
934 support the measure.  
935

936 Harriet Leib said she does not see the commission continuing after presenting its findings. The Singer  
937 Commission disbanded after presenting its findings to the county.  
938

939 Lester Steinman agreed.  
940

941 Francis Sheehan said residents can raise the issue at Town Board meetings if they feel the  
942 recommendations are being ignored.  
943

944 Catherine Lederer-Plaskett said the charge of the commission was to propose the recommendations,  
945 not ensure their adoption. Individuals, not the commission, could pursue Town Board action.  
946

947 Lester Steinman said that the commission should not oppose a referendum if the supervisor wants to  
948 pursue one on his own. The commission has outlined what it believes are critical issues that need to be  
949 addressed. If the commission has misgauged what the public has told it, and the referendum passes, so  
950 be it.  
951

952 Francis Sheehan said Supervisor Feiner may be backing himself into a corner by continuing to propose  
953 taxpayer financing of local campaigns. The commission is proposing shifting a portion of cable  
954 franchise fees from the general fund to an independent cable access system. Previously, the supervisor  
955 objected to spending franchise fees to improve cable access, claiming it would reduce the money in the  
956 general fund needed to feed hungry children and provide programs for the elderly. It will be difficult  
957 for him to continue using that argument now that he supports increasing taxes to finance local  
958 candidates' campaigns. The monies from the tax increase he proposes could be used to replace the  
959 money to be transferred out of the general fund. Therefore, the supervisor should not object to the  
960 commission's campaign reform recommendations based on fiscal concerns.  
961

962 Harriet Leib said the commission can explain the cable finance issues to the supervisor at the next  
963 meeting. She then asked about publicity. She had a printed list of media contacts that could be used.  
964 She suggested contacting The Journal News, The Scarsdale Inquirer, The Rivertowns Enterprise, The  
965 County Press, WFAS and the Cablevision's News12.  
966

967 Charlotte Schienberg suggested inviting members of the county legislators, such as George Latimer,  
968 Tom Abinanti, Lois Bronz, and Richard Brodsky. She also suggested inviting someone from Common  
969 Cause.

970  
971 Harriet Leib said Charlotte Schienberg's suggestions were excellent. She asked Francis Sheehan to  
972 handle the media contacts and Catherine Lederer-Plaskett to contact Supervisor Feiner regarding the  
973 November 28, 2000 meeting. He should be invited at 8 p.m. so the commission can complete its  
974 outstanding business. She said the presentation to the Town Board is tentatively scheduled for  
975 December 13, 2000. She asked Catherine Lederer-Plaskett to obtain a commitment from the  
976 supervisor regarding the December 13<sup>th</sup> presentation when she calls him.

977  
978 The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

979  
980  
981 Respectfully submitted,

982 Francis Sheehan, Commission Secretary