

Charter Unit Leans Toward Elected Mayor

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City of Santa Cruz voters may elect their mayors again.

And they may see a broadening of the powers of the city council and a diminution of the city manager's authority.

All within the framework of the present city council city manager form of government.

Three work groups of the city charter revision committee Wednesday indicated through consensus opinions that consideration of mayoral elections by the people is much in order, as is consideration of broadening the city council's powers and improving its pay.

So in the immediate weeks ahead the committee chaired by Paul Niebanck will address itself to analyzing the preliminary consensus opinions in depth to determine if the dramatic changes proposed should be and can be effected either within the present governmental system or in some other way.

The committee meeting next Wednesday, for example, will examine the question of mayoral elections by the people and the kinds of powers the mayor should have.

Whatever decisions the committee makes on these and other

possible governmental changes would have to go to the Santa Cruz City Council for study and approval. Then the

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State Needs Ten More Big Storms

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Northern California needs more than 10 storms like the last one to avoid serious summer water shortages, officials say.

The storm dropped nearly four inches of rain in the San Francisco Bay area and higher Sierra watersheds from the American River to the San Joaquin River, the state Department of Water Resources said Wednesday.

Up to four feet of snow fell. But relatively little moisture fell in extreme Northern California.

Donald Neudeck, chief of the department's flood control branch, said most of the moisture soaked into the ground. There was very little runoff.

SC Charter Committee Likes Elected Mayor

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changes would have to be submitted to the city voters for

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cover on their raft ... like a tent ... they can spread the cover across the top of the raft and trap the heat of the people inside."

Hoyland added, "If they do not have a cover, the cold temperature, they are wet, afloat

approval in a special charter election.

Niebanck said Wednesday he believes the committee will probably need at least two months of discussion and writing before it can come up with a final draft of charter changes to recommend to the council.

Hence it appears virtually certain that the 1975-77 city council session that ordered the charter revision study won't be the one to review the final proposals and to decide if they should be put to the voters for decision.

Santa Cruz City Council elections are scheduled for March 8, or well before a final plan for charter revision is expected to be developed.

The 1977-79 council session will be convened April 19, with winners of the three council seats up for grabs on March 8 joining the council at that time.

example, that her subcommittee favors more citizen participation in government, election of a mayor separate from the council elections and increased mayoral power, retention of a city manager but giving the council the power of dismissal with a 4 to 3 vote rather than the present 5 to 2 vote required, and a broadening of council authority to give it approval of the hiring of department heads.

Chairman John Laird gave it as the consensus of his group that the council-manager form of government be kept, that mayors should be elected, that the council should have dismissal power over the city manager with but a 4 to 3 vote, but that as a matter of reality some felt a two-year contract or some other safeguard should be provided to insulate the city manager from political moves against him.

Michaelangelo Rosato said his group felt that possibly the mayor should be elected, for improvement in council and staff relations, that provisions for neighborhood input into city deliberations is crucial.

There was general agreement that probably pay should be increased for the council but that this should not be enough to create career politicians at the city level.

Niebanck stressed that at this time there are no firm proposals. He said that he sensed from the comments there is backing for retention of the present form of government and that under that consensus the group could deal with issues cluster by cluster.

Among these issues he included the question of the form of the city government, the mayor question, alternate methods of council election, the council versus management, the council versus department heads, commissions and boards and neighborhood involvement.