

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011**

2011 MAR -2 AM 9:00
CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Ruth Morgan, Chair
Hollis Brashear, Vice Chair
Gary Griffith
Donna Halstead
Mary Hasan
Elizabeth Jones
Jon Brooks Love
Daniel "Corky" Sherman
Tom Wood
John Loza
Domingo Garcia
Mark Hord
Billy Ratcliff
Stanley Mays

Staff Present:

Yasmin Tolliver, Redistricting Manager
Barbara McAninch, Asst. City Attorney
Warren Ernst, Asst. City Attorney
Daisy Torres, Redistricting Coordinator
Peter Bratt, Redistricting Coordinator
Arlicia Herron, Office Assistant

Commission Members Absent:

None

Members of the Public Present: 1
Media Present: 1

Special Note

Due to a recording device malfunction, there is no tape recording of this meeting.

6:30 P.M. Meeting called to order by Chair, Dr. Ruth Morgan.

1. Opening Remarks

- Dr. Morgan, Chair, suggested as a housekeeping matter that some of the commissioners had requested consideration to move the meeting time to 5:30 PM or 6:00 PM, starting on March 1, 2011. A time of 6:00 PM was agreed on by consensus of all the commissioners present. Commissioners Garcia and Love arrived after the new time was agreed upon. They also agreed on the time of 6:00 PM.
- Dr. Morgan, Chair, discussed the necessity of turning on microphones and waiting to be recognized for the purpose of record keeping. Also Dr. Morgan, Chair, asked if anyone had any objections to canceling the meeting scheduled on July 14th and starting the two per week meetings, the week following the scheduled break in July. There were no objections.

2. Introduction of City Council Appointed Commission Vice Chair
 - Dr. Morgan, Chair, announced Commissioner Brashear's appointment by the City Council to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission. Vice Chair Brashear spoke briefly to the members.

3. Approval of February 15, 2011 Minutes

- Motion: Commissioner Hord
I move approval of the Tuesday, February 15, 2011 minutes.
- Seconded: Commissioner Jones
 - Ayes: 14
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously)

4. Redistricting Guidelines

- Barbara McAninch, Asst. City Attorney, went over the Definitions and Terminology used in the legal documents provided to commissioners. Questions were asked about the definitions and Attorney McAninch responded.
- Barbara McAninch, Asst. City Attorney, discussed the Guidelines for 2001 and the proposed draft guidelines for 2011. Each of the specific numbered draft guidelines were discussed:
 - Population Equality
 - Contiguity and Compactness
 - Minority Representation
 - Incumbents

The commissioners asked questions about each of the guidelines and Attorney McAninch responded to the questions.

- The Commissioners requested that the following items be added to the commission draft of the guidelines for the following meeting:

The Chair asked that communities of interest and cores of existing districts be added as separate stand-alone guidelines rather than just as legitimate objectives for population deviation in guideline #1.

Commissioner Halstead asked that school boundaries and attendance zones be added as a bullet under guideline #1, because they are key factors in how to determine a community of interest. Commissioner Wood agreed.

Commissioner Garcia proposed to move Guideline #3 to the second position, reversing the order of proposed guidelines #2 and #3. He requested that #3 be amended to add the words "or packed" at the end of the first sentence of #3.

Vice Chair Brashear requested that ethnicity and language be added to guideline #3 with the bullet addressing race to make it clear that none of the items can be a predominant factor.

Commissioner Love suggested that all of the guidelines be given equal weight.

Commissioner Hord stated that the voting process may be a little confusing and wanted to discuss how orderly voting would take place for the next meeting.

Dr. Morgan, Chair explained that all suggestions and changes will be added to a second draft of the guidelines to be voted on at the next meeting (March 1). The purpose of going over the guidelines at this meeting is to make note of suggestions for additions, deletions and changes, for the attorney to draft a clean copy incorporating the suggestions, and to vote at the next meeting. Each guideline will be voted on individually.

Commissioner Wood suggested changing the last line in the preamble to reduce confusion regarding the order of the guidelines.

Motion: Commissioner Wood

I move to add the word "following" before the word guidelines and to eliminate the phrase "in the order listed" from the last sentence in the preamble so that the sentence reads: "The following guidelines will be applied unless to do so will violate federal or state law."

o Seconded: Commissioner Garcia

Ayes: 12

Nays: 2

Motion Passed: 12-2 (Commissioners Hord and Griffith voted against the motion.)

Since the guidelines will be placed in no specific order, Barbara McAninch, Asst. City Attorney, asked if she could number the guidelines for organization purposes (numbers not serving as an indication of importance). No objection was made by the commission.

Commissioner Hasan questioned that #4 appeared inconsistent with the final bullet points on #1 and #2. Commissioner Mays agreed and suggested that the wording of preserving constituency-council relationships and the ability of the council member to relate effectively with the constituency be reworded to reflect an emphasis on the constituency, not the council member.

5. Staff Updates

- Yasmin Tolliver, Redistricting Manager, stated that GIS staff ordered an evaluation disc for a 60 day software trail. They will review the temporary license and see if evaluation software can be used by the Commissioners.
- The 2010 Census data for Dallas has been released and is currently being analyzed by the GIS project staff.
Commissioner Garcia asked when the breakdown of demographics data will available. Mrs. Tolliver, Redistricting Manager, informed him it some reportable data should be ready by next meeting but that would depend of the completion of the analysis by GIS.
- Redistricting Manager Tolliver asked if the commission would like the staff to continue printing packets. (Most of the commissioners have been printing prior to coming and the staff would like to go green, reducing paper usage). Commissioners were asked to send an email indicating whether they would like to continue printing their own or have staff print the documents.

6. Public Speakers


- There were no public speakers.

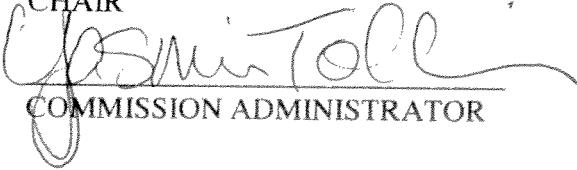
7. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

- There were none.

8. Adjournment

Dr. Morgan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM



CHAIR


COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

Note: For detailed information on meeting refer to the tape retained on file in the Redistricting Office.