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**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011**

2011 APR -6 AM 8:47

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
John Lozano

Staff Present:

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

Commission Members Absent:

None

Members of the Public Present: 2

Media Present: 1

6:01 P.M. Meeting called to order by Chair, Dr. Ruth Morgan. A quorum was present.

1. Opening Remarks

- Dr. Ruth Morgan, Chair, thanked the commission for their commitment. She passed out a copy of the Commission Rules and requested that the rules be followed by all members during the meetings to make the recording process easier.

2. Dr Ruth Morgan, Chair informed the commission that Commissioner Ratcliff is the new Vice Chair, having been approved by City Council last week.

3. Approval of March 1, 2011 Minutes

- Motion: Commissioner Mark Hord moved to approve the Tuesday, March 1, 2011 Minutes.
- Seconded: Commissioner Stanley Mays
 - Ayes: 13
 - Nays: 0

Motion Passed: 13-0 (two commissioners arrived later in meeting and were not present for this vote)

4. Staff Updates

- Yasmin Tolliver, Redistricting Manager, informed the commission of the delay on the preliminary 2010 census data for demographic information by council district
- The GIS Department has received the demonstration software and staff may be able to purchase licenses if needed.
- All Commissioners received an email for training and a response is needed to schedule this training.
- A copy of the April meeting schedule was presented to commissioners to sign up for when they would like to present a District Report to the rest of the commission about their district.

Commissioner Halstead signed up for April 5th, Commissioner Wood signed up for April 12th, Commissioner Loza signed up for April 19th. No other commissioners signed up at this time.

- Commissioners were asked to suggest locations for public meetings to be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning April 28 and continuing through May. Staff proposed 7 meetings, one in each service area. Commissioners were given a handout listing seven possible locations and some alternatives.

6:07 pm Commissioner Domingo Garcia arrives at the meeting.

6:41 pm Commissioner Gary Griffith arrived at the meeting

**Dr. Morgan was alerted that the recording device being used was not working properly and at this point the meeting was not being recorded.

- Motion: Commissioner Donna Halstead
I move to establish procedures for the Commission to hear from the public in public meetings that, if possible, combine council districts and have all commissioners to make a concerted effort to attend all meetings, with a minimum of seven meetings.

- Seconded: Commissioner John Loza

- Motion to Amend Main Motion: Commissioner Hollis Brashear
I move to amend the Motion to change 7 meetings to 8 meetings with two of the meetings to be held in Districts Five and Eight.

- Seconded: Commissioner Mary Hasan

- Ayes: 14

- Nays: 1

- Motion to Amend Passed: 14-1

- Vote on Main Motion As Amended:

- Ayes: 14

- Nays: 1

- Motion Passed: 14-1

- Motion: Commissioner John Loza
I move to establish one formal open citywide meeting on Saturday in a public place like the Central Downtown Library.
- Seconded: Commissioner Tom Wood and Commissioner Jones
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 15-0

- Motion: Commissioner Elizabeth Jones
I move to establish all meetings be held in locations easily accessible to public transportation.
- Seconded: Commissioner Billy Ratcliff
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 15-0

- Motion: Commissioner Tom Wood
I move to have staff choose locations with free or reduced parking
- Seconded: Commissioner Billy Ratcliff
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 15-0

- Motion: Commissioner Elizabeth Jones
I move to have staff ensure that all of the meetings are easily accessible as much as possible
- Seconded: Commissioner Billy Ratcliff
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 15-0

Commissioner Billy Ratcliff suggested that staff call Gary Thomas with DART for assistance with transportation.

Commissioner Donna Halstead suggested that in each meeting, people in the districts in which the meetings are being held be allowed to speak first. Speakers that have spoken at other meetings would be allowed to speak later.

- Motion: Commissioner Jon Love
I move to create a Commission rule that speakers who have not spoken at a meeting will be allowed to speak first before those that have already spoken at prior meetings. A speaking time of three minutes will be allowed for each speaker.
- Seconded: Commissioner Billy Ratcliff
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0

Motion Passed: 15-0

The Commissioners agreed to postpone further discussions of the meetings and rules for the meetings until a later meeting or to contact Project Manager Yasmin Tolliver with suggestions.

5. Redistricting Guidelines

City Attorney Barbara McAninch discussed the approved guidelines that are to go to council in April. She informed the Commission of redline information added to guidelines, which included definitions that were requested by commissioners at the time the Guidelines were approved.

- Motion: Commissioner Stanley Mays
I move to have “regarding Population Equality, Minority Representation, and Contiguity and Compactness” added to Section A.

- Seconded: Commissioner Billy Ratcliff
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0Motion Passed: 15-0

- Motion: Commissioner Billy Ratcliff
I move to add the proposed language to the bullet under #1 to read “using public school attendance zones as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Dallas to assist in defining neighborhoods.”

- Amendment offered by Commissioner Hollis Brashear to change the word “zones” to “boundaries” accepted by Commissioner Billy Ratcliff
Seconded: Commissioner Tom Wood
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0Motion Passed: 15-0

- Motion: Commissioner Stanley Mays
I move to add the proposed language to the bullet under #1 for preserving the cores of existing districts “as permitted by case law, meaning to recognize the traditional geographic, economic, cultural or social center of an existing district as supported by public testimony.”)

- Seconded: Commissioner Mary Hasan
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0Motion Passed: 15-0

- Motion: Commissioner Jon Love
I move to have the proposed language to read: “the use of public school attendance boundaries as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Dallas to assist in defining neighborhoods.” added to bullet 5 under Contiguity and Compactness.

- Seconded: Commissioner Stanley Mays
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 15-0

- Motion: Chair Ruth Morgan
I move to have “may be” changed to “shall be” under B guidelines.
- Seconded: Commissioner Hollis Brashear
The Motion was withdrawn after discussion by Dr. Ruth Morgan, Commissioner Hollis Brashear and Commissioner Mark Hord.

- Motion: Commissioner Billy Ratcliff
I move to add the following language to the first sentence of the preamble:
“that are in the best interests of the residents and the City of Dallas.”
Seconded: Commissioner Mark Hord
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 15-0

6. Board and Commission Appointee Training

Due to the time the City of Dallas Ethics training video for Board and Commission Appointees was postponed until a later meeting.

7. Public Speakers

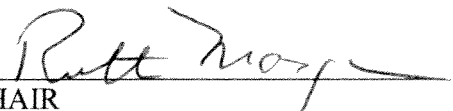

No Public Speakers signed in to speak.

8. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

There were no additional questions or remarks from Commission Members

9. Adjournment

Dr. Morgan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM


 CHAIR

 COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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