

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Commission Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Commission Members Absent:

None

Members of the Public Present: 5

Media Present: 1

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

1. Opening Remarks

- Dr. Morgan, Chair, informed the commissioners to be thinking about how they want to handle the initial maps. If the commission wants the staff to come up with a few maps as a starting point or if the commission wants to start with their own maps.
- Dr. Morgan, Chair reviewed the attendance requirements for the commission's meetings. Page 7 section 8-20 (a) of the Dallas City Code states: "No member shall be excused from attendance at a board meeting unless for medical reasons certified to by a physician or unless excused by the board and the city council. A member having three unexcused absences in succession shall forfeit membership on the board." Section 8-20(b) states: "A member of a board that meets weekly or biweekly, who is absent from more than 25percent of the regular meetings in any six month period, whether excused or not, shall forfeit membership on the board."

2. Approval of March 08, 2011 Minutes

- Motion: Commissioner Wood moved to approve the Tuesday, March 08, 2011 minutes.
- Seconded: Commissioner Jones
 - Ayes: 11
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 11-0 (unanimously) [Commissioners Mays, Garcia, Lozano and Love had not arrived when the vote was taken.]

3. Approval of Proposed Rules for Speakers for Public Hearings.

- Motion: Commissioner Ratcliff moved to approve the Proposed Rules for Speakers for Public Hearings
- Seconded: Commissioner Halstead
- Motion to Amend Point #4 of Proposed Rules: Commissioner Halstead to modify the provision regarding speaker time limits:
 - Each speaker shall have a maximum of 3 minutes with the time limit to be determined the night of the meeting, depending on the number of speakers that are signed up to speak.
- Seconded: Commissioner Hasan
 - Ayes: 11
 - Nays: 0
 - Motion Passed: 11-0 (unanimously) [Commissioners Mays, Garcia, Lozano and Love had not arrived when the vote was taken.]

6:10 pm Commissioner Mays arrived

6:12 pm Commissioner Garcia arrived

6:18 pm Commissioner Lozano arrived

- Motion to Amend Point #5 of Proposed Rules: Commissioner Griffith
Each speaker must keep his/her comments or questions to redistricting or will be ruled out of order by the Chair.
- Seconded: Commissioner Mays
 - Ayes: 13
 - Nays: 1 (Commissioner Brashear)
 - Motion Passed: 13-1 [Commissioner Love had not arrived when the vote was taken.]

The Chair then restated the original motion to approve the Redistricting Commission Rules for Public Speakers, as amended..

Ayes: 14

Nays: 0

Motion as Amended Passed: 14-0 (unanimously) [Commissioner Love had not arrived when the vote was taken.]

Commissioner Halstead suggested that staff provide a projector and a map of the current city council districts at each public hearing

- Yasmin Tolliver, Redistricting Manager stated that staff will provide a projector and a map of the current city council districts.

4. Staff Updates

- Yasmin Tolliver, Redistricting Manager, presented information on the following topics.
 - 2010 Census Data
The presentation showed the population shifts since 2000 by district. The ideal district population is now 85,558.
 - 2011 Plan Submission Packet
The staff will review all plans to make certain that they are in compliance with the Guidelines, will sign in all plans submitted and will provide a log of plans to the Commission.
 - Presentation of Initial Maps
All commissioners must submit what they want included in the map by completing a form to staff or staff can work from maps that commissioners have already started. The Commission decided not to have initial maps at the upcoming public hearings in order to get the opinion of the public and not to distract the speakers with proposed maps they may think are final products.
 - Proposed Public Hearing Schedule
It was suggested that the Staff consider Larry Johnson Recreation as a site for the public hearings.
 - Software Updates
Any Commissioner wanting software loaded on a laptop computer needs to sign an agreement and make an appointment to have the software loaded.

6:47 pm Commissioner Love arrived.

5. Commissioner District Reports

- Donna Halstead reported on District 10 and handed out an attachment with additional information. District 10 lost people since the 2000 Census, with an 11% population decline. This population decline is due in part to the demolition of approximately 5,000 substandard apartments in the district between 2000 and 2010. Commissioner Halstead also noted that District 10 has gotten much younger since 2000 and thus its Voting Age Population (VAP) declined. This VAP decline is largely because District

10 is located in the Richardson School Districts (RISD) that has consistently high ratings on state and federal matrixes. Since 2001 there have been a number of redevelopment projects occurring within District 10, including the Skillman/Walnut Hill shopping center, the redevelopment of Northwest Highway and Skillman, and the forthcoming construction of the Lake Highlands Town Center project at Audelia and Walnut Hill.

- Gary Griffith spoke on District 9, which is one of the city's most compact districts. The current population exceeds the optimal district population in 2010 by 2,515 people. District 9 is defined by White Rock Lake, which serves as an economic engine for the district, increasing property values for homeowners, and improving quality of life for all residents. There have been some demographic shifts within the district, particularly in the eastern part near Ferguson Road. District 9 is known for its quality schools, particularly Woodrow Wilson High School, which just implemented an International Baccalaureate degree program. District 9's neighborhoods are organized and cohesive, creating Dallas' first dog park on Mockingbird Lane with private funding, and are working hard bettering East Dallas. An example of this is the Garland Road Vision that was presented and approved by City Council last month. District 9 needs to shed 2,515 residents, and Commissioner Griffith felt that the first area of opportunity would be restoring the Vickery Meadow neighborhood on the far northwest end of the district to assist District 13 with its population deficit. At the same time residents from smaller neighborhoods surrounding District 9 have approached Mr. Griffith and Council Member Kadane about moving into District 9 based on a connection to White Rock Lake or Lakewood.
- Domingo Garcia spoke on District 1 and presented a PowerPoint to aid in his presentation. District 1 lost 6,278 residents between 2000 and 2010, and its population now stands at 80,101. The 2010 Voting Age Population is 81.9% Hispanic, 5.2% Black, and 11.6% White, while the overall population is 86% Hispanic, 4% Black, and 9% White. Jefferson Avenue is the heart of District 1, serving as the commercial corridor of the community. The Bishop Arts District has become an economic growth engine over the past few years, with attractions such as Café Brazil, Casa Blanca, and Gloria's (soon to be expanded), as well as historic places such as the Texas Theater, the Kessler Theater, and the Oak Cliff Cultural Center. There are a number of elementary and middle schools within District 1, and the largest high school in the city of Dallas (Sunset High School) is also located in Oak Cliff. District 1 is known for its parks, including Lake Cliff, Kidds Springs, and Martin Weiss. Commissioner Garcia stated that based on the City of Dallas' demographic breakdown, Hispanics would be entitled to 5.88 City Council seats if using proportional representation, Blacks 3.5 seats, and Whites 4.06 seats. In

response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Garcia said that an effective Hispanic majority district should have no more than 70% of its Voting Age Population to be Hispanic.

There was no additional discussion among Commissioners regarding presentations.

6. Public Speakers

Mr. Keith "Shamrock" McPhail residing in District 2 at 4503 Junius spoke on needing a voice to represent the entertainment district on city council by combining the entertainment district into a single district.. It is currently split between Districts 2 and 14.

7. Board and Commission Appointee Required Training

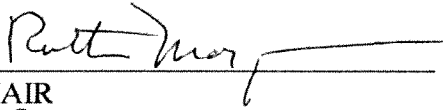
- City of Dallas Ethics video is postponed until the next meeting to be held on April 12, 2011

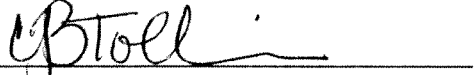
8. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

- No final remarks

7. Adjournment

- Dr. Morgan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM



CHAIR


COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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

**Redistricting Commission
District 9 Report
04/05/2011**

Dallas City Council District 9 – 2011 Profile

District 9 is one of the city's most compact districts. The current population exceeds the 2010 population requirement of 85,558 by 2,515 people.

The focal point and economic engine of District 9 is White Rock Lake. Neighborhoods understand the value of the lake to quality of life as well as home values. In recent years some established neighborhoods outside of District 9 have changed their historic name to incorporate "White Rock" or "Lakewood" in their new name to add value.

Equal to White Rock Lake is the community's support of education, both public and private. Woodrow, BA, the middle schools and elementary schools, Dallas Academy, St Johns, Lakehill, St Thomas (on the edge of Dist 9) and St Pius all have active constituencies. Woodrow recently announced the implementation of International Baccalaureate degree program (IB) which has the real potential of transforming public education in East Dallas by renewing interest in all the schools in the feeder pattern.

The people of District 9 are committed to conserving the environment and take pride in being home to Dallas' Garden & Lake District.

Neighborhoods are organized, active and work for the betterment of East Dallas. A group of 16 neighborhood leaders several years ago created the *Garland Road Vision* which is an Urban Plan for maintaining the quality of life while planning for proper growth and development for the decades to come.

A decade ago a group of six community leaders met to plan Dallas' first Dog Park. Although many said it wouldn't work, within 90 days the parking lot had to be doubled to accommodate the cars. Today, the Dog Park on Mockingbird Lane is one of the city's most popular parks and was created through private donations.

Three shopping centers anchor the district, Casa Linda, Casa View and Lakewood. The YMCA @ White Rock is actively supported by the families and kids throughout East Dallas as is Doctors Hospital @ White Rock for emergency and medical services.

The intersection of Gaston, Garland and East Grand at the south end of the district is a prime redevelopment site where the YMCA would serve as an anchor tenet. The new Lochwood Library at the north end of the district will serve as catalyst for new development for the surrounding neighborhoods.

District 9 needs to shed 2,515. The first area of opportunity would be restoring the Vickery Meadow neighborhood on the far northwest end of the district (to assist District 13 with its population deficit).

Residents of several small neighborhoods have approached the District 9 commissioner and council member about moving to District 9 because they have a White Rock or Lakewood orientation.

Redistricting Goals: Keep the district compact, neighborhoods whole, White Rock Lake as the core and add smaller neighborhoods that have a lake orientation.