

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES  
THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2011**

Commission Members Present:

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

Commission Members Absent:

None

Members of the Public Present: 9

Media Present: 1

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  
Tom Perkins, City Attorney

CITY SECRETARIAT  
DALLAS, TEXAS

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**6:00 P.M.** Meeting called to order by Chair, Dr. Ruth Morgan. A quorum was present.

1. Opening Remarks

- Dr. Morgan reminded Commissioners to ensure that their microphones are turned on to allow the audio and video recordings to pick up what is being said in the meeting.
- Dr. Morgan summarized the 3 phases of the 4 phase process that the Commission has gone through toward its goal of proposing a city-wide redistricting plan to the Mayor by its target date of August 2. Phase 1 from February 8 through April 26: being briefed about the law of redistricting and developing the Guidelines that were approved unanimously by the Commission and by the City Council; Second Phase April 26 to May 24: conducting 10 public hearings to get input from the public before drawing maps; Third Phase June 7-now: receiving plan proposals and the working map stage. Moving a plan proposal forward for further consideration and modification is not voting to approve any plan. All plans that meet the Guidelines are left on the table for consideration. The approval of the plan is the 4<sup>th</sup> phase when the Commission will begin to make selections and have

finalists for final consideration. There will be plenty of opportunities for public comment.

- Project Manager Tolliver reviewed the plan submission process and the upcoming schedule for the commission.
- Project Manager Tolliver provided dates as to when access to software for plans was available. On April 1, 2011 the computer lab was available to the public so they could work on plans. On May 16, 2011 the workstation on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of Central Library was available to allow work on plans. Also, as of June 1, 2011, the web-based software was available to the public. The deadline of plan submission was June 30<sup>th</sup> at 5pm CDT. The Redistricting Office has received thirteen complete city-wide plans and two partial plans from the public to be submitted for review by the Redistricting Commission.
- Asst. City Attorney McAninch reviewed Section 8–25 of the Dallas City Code regarding the rules of courtesy for the public attending official city meetings.
- Chair Morgan noted that approval of minutes for the June 28, 2011 meeting will be on the agenda for the Commission’s next meeting on July 12, 2011.

2. Commissioner Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentations

- None

3. Public Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentations

(a) wPlan31 Submission Summary

- Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary of wPlan31. This plan is considered as public testimony as it does not meet the Redistricting Commission guidelines for requirements regarding minority representation for the Voting Rights Act. It includes 5 minority districts and 4 minority coalition districts, which is considered regression, as there are currently 6 minority districts and 3 minority coalition districts. District 1 is also packed, since the Hispanic Voting Age Population is 75.09%. Compactness increased in 54 of the district scores, while only 2 were less than the scores of the existing district for compactness.

(b) wPlan31 Submission Presentation

- Mr. Jon Heimburger presented his testimony for wPlan31. Mr. Heimburger explained that he had a late start and is not really happy with what he has drawn. He was a web-user indicated that he had some software problems after submitting his plan with having non-contiguous areas. Errors were found on the plan, but he could not regain access to his plan for 24 hours. He was trying to come up with compact districts using natural boundaries. He understands that this map will not work, and noted the changes in Dallas’ demographics. Demographics are changing drastically in Dallas where formerly African-American areas are now Hispanic areas. He thinks that minority coalition districts are better than single minority districts. If he had more time, he would try to redo the southern areas.

(c) wPlan31 Discussion

- Commissioner Loza thanked Mr. Heimburger and asked him to present a written statement of the computer problems to the staff.
  - Mr. Heimburger admitted to a late start of June 15<sup>th</sup> and using an older computer and not to blame software entirely. However, stated that a tool to find smaller pieces missed was not made available until this week.
- (d) wPlan45 Submission Summary
- Motion: Commissioner Ratcliff moved to defer wPlan45 until the submitter is available to present the plan.
    - Seconded: Commissioner Loza
      - Ayes: 14
      - Nays: 0

Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously-Commissioner Lozano had not yet arrived.)
4. Commission Discussion and Vote on Plan Consideration
- None to consider at this time.
5. Commission Discussion and Vote on Previous Commission Directed Modified Plans
- Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary of cPlan10a which modified cPlan10 presented by Commissioner Halstead. The changes in this plan resulted in the average population deviation being reduced to 0.61%, and the total range of population deviation was reduced to 3.02%. This plan has 7 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts. On average all of the compactness scores did decrease.
  - Commissioner Halstead presented the changes made to cPlan10 as directed by the Commission to create cPlan10a. She made changes on the boundary of District 9 based on public testimony and because Commissioner Griffith informed her that she had divided Casa Linda Estates. Likewise, she noted she had divided part of the Swiss Avenue Historic District, so she altered the boundaries to make that change. There were two changes made to District 13, with one change putting the Bluffview area back together. The remaining changes were made in the southern sector in regards to Councilmember Davis' comments. Commissioner Halstead took the Fair Park area and put it into a district with Buckner Terrace, and this district has gone from being a Hispanic majority to African-American majority district, and the African-American voting age population for District 7 is 50.16%. She also made minor changes to Districts 2, 6 and 14.
  - Motion: Commissioner Ratcliff moved to postpone consideration of the modified plan cPlan10a until the next meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
    - Seconded: Commissioner Hasan
      - Ayes: 13
      - Nays: 2

Motion Passed: 13-2 (Commissioners Loza and Griffith voted no)

- Motion: Commissioner Jones moved that improvements be made to the maps provided to the Commissioners to determine district boundary lines, that major arteries will be labeled on the maps, and that if possible, that a written description of the boundaries be provided to the Commission.
  - Seconded: Commissioner Brashear
    - Ayes: 15
    - Nays: 0
 Motion Passed: 15-0 (unanimously)
- Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary of wPlan24a, which is a Commission directed revision of wPlan24 by Bill Betzen. There were small changes in Districts 1, 6, 3, 5, and 14. The population deviation range increased to 3.94% and the average population deviation increased to 1.06%. The plan has 8 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts. Compactness was reduced across the board.
  - Mr. Bill Betzen reviewed wPlan24a. He took input from several people, including Commissioner Hasan. Changes were made to increase the minority population in District 5, and he also put Kessler Park back together as requested by Commissioner Sherman. He also met Commissioner Loza's request that the little triangle between the North Dallas Tollway and Interstate 35 be put into District 6. Commissioner Sherman indicated that he told Mr. Betzen not to split Kessler Park, but not to put them in West Dallas. Commissioner Garcia gave Mr. Betzen an A for valiant effort, but pointed out that Kit Springs is not a part of Kessler Park. Commissioner Jones wants the triangle west of Marsh back in District 13.
  - Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary of the Commission directed changes made by the Redistricting staff to wPlan24a to create wPlan24b at the request of Commissioner Sherman at the June 21, 2011 meeting. To unify Kessler Park, the areas north of Davis Street, west of Hampton Avenue, and South of Interstate 30 were added to District 1. As a result, the population deviation was over 10%, so the staff went over to the west side of District 1 and moved the area northwest of the intersection at Marion and Jefferson Blvd into District 3. This resulted in a total range of deviation of 5.58%. This change did increase the total population of the Hispanic population in District 3, but it remains under the 70% packing threshold for the voting age population. All of the minority and minority coalition districts remain the same as in Mr. Betzen's original plan. Commissioner Sherman explained that he made the changes to Kessler Park-Stevens Park area in accordance with the overlay for the Old Oak Cliff Conservative League.
6. Commission Discussion and Vote to Give Direction to Staff on Modifying Plans Approved for Continued Consideration
    - The Chair deferred this item due to lack of time by members of the Commission to review the modifications made to the plans presented.

## 7. Public Speakers

- Asst. City Attorney McAninch informed the speakers of the Rules for Speaking to the Commission.
- Bruce Parrott resides at 11208 Yorkmont in District 9, and stated that East Dallas is east of White Rock Lake. Casa Linda has nothing in common with Lakewood, and the residents on the east side of the lake have more in common with Casa View. Concern they will not get enough attention being added to a majority white district. If changes need to be made, requests that White Rock Lake be the dividing line and not Garland Road or the railroad tracks.
- John Bankston resides at 1861 Muleshoe in District 8, and stated that District 8 is a unique district and would like to keep it like it is now. It is growing and would like it to stay together as much as possible. Would like to see the area between 175 and 45 and out to the pie shape to Interstate 20 remain in District 8. Would like to see the Kleberg-Rylie areas remain intact in one district. States that if the Kleberg-Rylie areas were added to Pleasant Grove, it would dilute the African-American vote in District 8.
- Ms. Marla Biekman resides at 5739 Preston Fairways in District 12, and presented information about neighborhood groups and boundaries to Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Hord that they had requested in the prior meeting about neighborhood groups and boundaries.
- Mr. Bill Betzen resides at 6717 Cliffwood in District 8. He asked that the public continue to have online access to redistricting software to test out comments or testimony presented at Commission meetings after the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline date. Project Manager Tolliver responded that is something that is currently being worked, but the web may not be available due to server issues with the web based application. The work stations in the Central Library are still available, but the computer lab is closed for public use.
- Former Councilmember Sandra Crenshaw, residing at 1431 Quartet St from District 8, informed the Commission that she is disappointed about the deliberation of maps before all maps were submitted. She does not feel that council members should be participating in drawing maps. There should be a firewall between the Commission and members of the council. Also, she stated we are all in a race to present maps, and it is causing a division in the African-American community. The Commission should keep their discussion with council members out of the public. That is not what it was supposed to be. It is supposed to be members of the community giving direction. She will send Commissioners an email about precinct 3549.
- Mr. Marvin Crenshaw, residing at 5134 Malcolm X Blvd in District 7, stated he was a leader in the 14-1 push in 1991. He feels that everything has been centered on Commissioner Halstead's map. He also stated that there would be a problem with maps putting Buckner Terrace back in District 7. He stated that there are economic and demographic differences between South Dallas and Buckner Terrace. He pointed out that even though African-Americans

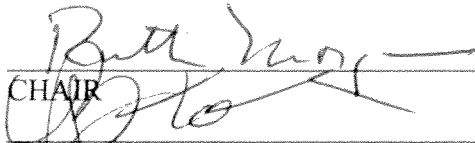
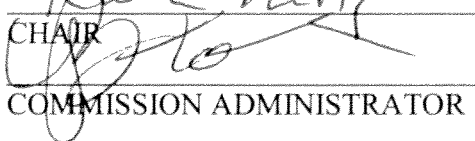
were a majority, they were out-voted. He does not think it makes much difference if there are 3 or 4 African-American districts. Mr. Crenshaw would like to see a map with three strong African-American districts that can be won and one district with a plurality of African-Americans.

8. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

- Commissioner Mays stated in reaction to public testimony tonight, that the Commission has not considered any maps whatsoever. The deadline for submitting maps was June 30, and the Commission never said they were not going to start vetting maps before that date. All maps spoken of have been here at the table. There has not been any back door discussion or deals made.
- Motion: Commissioner Mays moved that when discussing a plan to allow public comment prior to the Commission taking action on a map to move it forward for modification.
  - Seconded: Commissioner Ratcliff who also provided a friendly amendment to say that individuals be allowed to speak prior to meeting on items on the agenda, but only be allowed to speak one time per meeting.
- Amendment to Motion: Commissioner Loza amended Commissioner Mays' Motion to state that individuals will be allowed to speak prior to an item on the agenda, but the speaker must sign up at the beginning of meeting for the item on which he/she wishes to speak and each speaker is allowed to speak for 3 minutes and only one time per meeting.
  - Seconded: Commissioner Love
    - Ayes: 14
    - Nays: 0
  - Amendment to Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously; Commissioner Garcia absent)
- Vote on Mays Motion as amended by Loza Amendment:
  - Ayes: 14
  - Nays: 0
- Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously, Commissioner Garcia had left the meeting.)

9. Adjournment

- 8:02 pm the meeting adjourned

  
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CHAIR  
  
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COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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**Note:** For detailed information on meeting refer to the video tape of the meeting posted on the Redistricting website.