

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 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
Stanley Mays
Daniel "Corky" Sherman
Tom Wood

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:

John Lozano

Members of the Public Present: 19

Media Present: 1

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

1. Opening Remarks
 - The Chair reminded the commission and audience that no cell phones were to be used during the meeting.
 - The commission and public speakers must follow the rules of courtesy as established by the City of Dallas.

2. Approval of August 4, 2011 Minutes
 - Motion: Commissioner Wood moved to approve the Minutes for August 4, 2011.
 - Seconded: Commissioner Mays
 - Ayes: 10
 - Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously. (Commissioners Hasan, Loza, Sherman, Griffith and Lozano were not present at the vote).

3. Staff Update

CITY SECRETARY
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- Project Manager Tolliver updated the commission on the number of emails staff has received from residents of the Lake Highlands area. 642 emails have been received since July 30, 2011 and staff will continue to send them the Commission as they come in.
 - The Redistricting Commission's Public Forum is scheduled for Saturday August 20, 2011 in City Council Chambers from 2pm to 5pm. If more time is needed to accommodate speakers, staff can lengthen the time of the meeting.
 - The Project Manager also asked the Commission to schedule appointments to have ArcGIS software removed from their computers.
4. Development and Adoption of the Public Forum Rules
- Asst. City Attorney McAninch reviewed the proposed Rules for the Public Forum.
 - Motion: Commissioner Halstead moved that all public speakers must sign up to speak for a specific map in sequence and only speak on that map subject. Speakers must identify whether they are for or against a specific map. A general discussion section will be open for public comment at the end of the forum. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sherman.
 - Ayes: 14
 - Nays: 0
 - The motion passed unanimously. (Commissioner Lozano was not present)
 - Motion: Commissioner Garcia moved that Commissioners be allowed to direct questions to the speakers. Commissioners shall not have more than 5 minutes combined between all the Commissioners for questions. The public speaker will be allowed 1 minute to respond to questions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loza. After discussion by the commission and agreement by Commissioners Garcia and Loza, the motion was deferred until the August 11, 2011 meeting.
5. Commission Review and Discussion of All Plans Remaining in Inventory
- a) wPlan01 - No comments were made by the commission.
 - b) wPlan03 - Commissioner Sherman stated that he likes this plan, as it can be amended easily. Commissioner Jones noted that there were 12 amendments to this plan and asked the chair whether the commission could move a plan forward and make amendments at the same time.
 - c) wPlan04 - Commissioners Halstead, Wood, Hasan and Ratcliff questioned whether wPlan04 is a fixable plan. Commissioner Jones also noted it will be hard to reconcile this plan.
 - d) wPlan12 - Commissioner Ratcliff stated that he has the same problem with this map as with wPlan04. Commissioner Hasan stated that she does not like the Southern Dallas portion of this plan. Commissioner Jones stated it will be hard to balance this plan.

- e) wPlan16 - Commissioner Brashear mentioned that he has serious problems with District 5 in this plan.
- f) wPlan22 - Commissioners Ratcliff, Hasan, and Love stated that they do not support this plan. Commissioner Wood stated that this plan can be fixed but it will require major surgery to fix it. Commissioner Jones noted she would have a hard time reconciling this plan.
- g) wPlan24a - Commissioner Hord stated that he is troubled with the way Uptown, the Central Business District and Oak Lawn are divided into three separate districts. Commissioner Brashear stated this plan can be fixed. Commissioner Hasan stated that she likes District 5 in this plan but that it will be difficult to fix District 8. Commissioner Love agreed with Commissioner Hord, as he did not like the changes in District 14 in wPlan24a, as parts of Oak Lawn are paired with Casa Linda. Commissioner Garcia stated that he is inclined to support only one of Mr. Betzen's plans and will not support this plan.
- h) wPlan24b - Reviewed at same time as wPlan24a, with no additional commissioner comments on wPlan24b.
- i) wPlan45 - Commissioner Brashear stated that this plan only has 2 African American districts, and he does not like District 5 in this plan. Commissioner Hasan noted that she liked District 8 but did not like Districts 5, 3, 1 or most of the Southern sector of this plan. Commissioner Halstead stated that this plan divides Lake Highlands. Commissioner Griffith and Commissioner Love are likewise not thrilled with wPlan45.
- j) wPlan55a - Commissioner Hasan stated that she likes District 8 but not Districts 1 and 6. Commissioner Mays states that he has a problem with any plan, especially this one, which removes Fair Park from a South Dallas district. Commissioner Love stated that this map has a lot of issues but that it is a workable plan. Commissioner Garcia noted that he did not support this plan. Commissioner Jones stated this plan has a lot of great ideas but that it would be hard to balance this map.
- k) pPlan05 - Commissioner Hasan stated that she really likes this plan and will support it. Commissioner Jones stated that she cannot support the way District 13 is drawn in this plan. Commissioner Halstead mentioned that she thinks the North is fixable in this map, and can be modified. Commissioner Loza is not thrilled about this plan, and will not support moving this plan going forward. Commissioner Wood stated that it would take a lot of work to fix. Commissioner Love stated that this plan is not fixable.
- l) pPlan14 - Commissioner Sherman stated that he not sure this plan can be fixed. Commissioner Love mentioned that he has a problem with District 14 in this plan. Commissioner Garcia stated that District 1 is packed, but that he likes that pPlan14 keeps West Dallas together and it creates a Pleasant Grove district. Commissioner Wood stated that this is the first plan where he really likes District 12. Commissioner Jones stated that she does not support this plan. Commissioner Griffith stated it will be hard to fix this plan.

- m) cPlan04 - Commissioner Ratcliff supports this map and understands it needs some modifications. Commissioner Loza stated he has a problem with the placement of some Oak Cliff neighborhoods in District 2. Commissioner Sherman states that he is not sure if he could forward this map to next level. Commissioner Brashear stated that he not support this map. Brashear noted that while it could possibly be fixed but that he does not think it will make the residents of District 5 happy. Commissioner Hasan thought that District 8 can be fixed, but she stated that she has a problem with District 5 in this plan. Commissioner Griffith stated that cPlan04 has issues, but it would probably be a third choice map for him. Commissioner Garcia noted that cPlan04 has serious issues. He stated that Districts 14, 2 and 1 will not pass the smell test with the Department of Justice. Commissioner Jones had concerns with cPlan04 and with District 13, but believed that it could be balanced and would support it if the southern commission members could agree that it could be reconciled.
- n) cPlan05 - Commissioner Brashear stated that this plan meets the criteria established by the commission. He took suggestions from Commissioner Griffith but he did not receive any other suggestions. Commissioner Hasan did not support the way District 8 is drawn in this map. Commissioner Griffith could work with the map and supports it moving forward. Commissioner Jones noted that cPlan05 could be easily modified. Commissioner Ratcliff stated a modification was needed to put Kleberg-Riley back into District 8. The changes needed would be too drastic to this map and he will not support this map. Commissioner Garcia stated it has a lot of issues. Commissioner Hord stated that he will vote to move this plan forward. Commissioner Jones thought this plan can be fixed.
- o) cPlan16 - Commissioner Hord stated that the Lake Highlands area, as well as some areas of District 11 has been split, and that core communities of interest have been divided. Commissioner Hord noted that he liked the efforts made to preserve District 2 and 14, although revisions to the Northern districts will be needed. Commissioner Halstead is opposed to moving this map forward due to the splitting of District 10, and she read a letter from the Hamilton Park Civic League Homeowners Association into the record opposing such a move. Commissioner Jones liked some aspects of cPlan16, but noted that it needed some work in the North. Commissioner Sherman stated that it looked like this plan could be a deliberate attempt to isolate an incumbent. Commissioner Garcia stated that cPlan16 kept Kleberg-Riley in District 8, created a Pleasant Grove district, and unified Buckner Terrace into one district, and put South Dallas and Fair Park into District 7. The plan also kept Cedar Crest in District 4. District 1 is unpacked to a Hispanic population of 74%. All the historic neighborhoods are kept intact in District 3, while District 6 puts all of West Dallas in one district. cPlan16 adds the Love Field Airport to District 2, but maintains the majority of its current configuration. District 14 remains an entertainment district, while District 12 was modified. Commissioner Garcia noted that he worked with Commissioner Jones in

District 13. The new District 10 would unite old Lake Highlands with the upper part of Lake Highlands, and that the district is much more compact and reflects what Dallas is about. Commissioner Wood stated that he has concern with the way Districts 9 and 10 are drawn. Commissioner Loza likes cPlan16 because it retains the core of District 2, and he stated that this plan has a lot of potential with modifications. Commissioner Griffith stated it severs neighborhoods, and he is gravely concerned that all of the public testimony seems to not be taken into consideration. Commissioner Griffith stated that there is no tie between Old Lake Highlands and Lake Highlands. It would be a challenge to the council member to have to work with more than one school district. Let's keep school districts intact. Commissioner Hasan liked District 8, but has a problem with this plan because it only has 2 safe African American seats. Commissioner Brashear does not support cPlan16. Commissioner Ratcliff noted that the commission should do what's best for the City of Dallas rather than something referring to a particular area. Commissioner Mays agreed and stated that the commission needs to make a map that is best for City of Dallas, and expressed a concern about the hurrah that is created if there are changes to the north while the south expects changes. Commissioner Love concurred with Commissioners Ratcliff and Mays. Commissioner Love also noted that redistricting is about change which requires sacrifice from all, and he encouraged follow commission members to look at the whole picture. We can expect that we will all be equally unhappy. Commissioner Griffith stated that he wanted to set the record straight. Both maps that he agreed to move forward make substantial changes to District 9. He does not want to hear that the north is not willing to come to the table and make sacrifices for the whole. He is willing to make sacrifices and already has made sacrifices. Commissioner Brashear stated that this map only produces 2 African American districts, and that the coalition district in District 7 is a changing district and going in a different direction already. Commissioner Brashear noted that the Commission is to create districts that empower the electorate to select people to handle the serious issues in the Southern area of Dallas. Commissioner Halstead stated that northeast Dallas is multi-cultural. The minority population in northeast Dallas went up in single family neighborhoods and this area has become the broad swath of the color palate in what we hope all of Dallas will become. Commissioner Garcia stated that he will modify cplan16 and would like to compromise with Halstead concerning District10. Commissioner Jones stated that the Commission must listen to the groups that have been coming before them.

The Chair called for a 5 minute break that began at 8:46pm. The meeting was called back to order at 8:51 pm by the Chair.

p) Public Comments

- Megan Dredla resides at 8916 White Pine Lane in District 12. Ms. Dredla noted that cPlan16 is referred to as the unity plan, yet it carves up communities. The racial gerrymandering of Lake Highlands out of existence, as cPlan16 proposes to do, would be nothing more than a tragedy. In addition, the reason put forward for the changes made in cPlan16 are troubling. Ms. Dredla respectfully asked the commission to preserve Lake Highlands in one district, as it stands as an example of people from diverse backgrounds living and working together for the common good.
- Shirley Stark resides at 2612 Max Goldbatt Dr. in District 4. She stated that Pleasant Grove being referred to as a buffer for population but such language should not be used by the commission. Change is a good thing, and the city just has to get used to change. Ms Stark asked that the commission not separate Buckner Terrace from the Piedmont-Scyene area. The commission should look at her plan45 to see how the Pleasant Grove area is drawn, as it is in a way that respects history.
- Tina Triche represents the Ash Creek HOA, which is a part of White Rock Lake community. She requested that the commission have the White Rock Lake community remain together.
- Bill Betzen resides at 67617 Cliffwood in District 8, and presented a chart of all the plans. He noted that the second page of the Redistricting Guidelines established by the commission states that communities of interest “may be considered” is something. The map on the back of the handout represents the amendments he made to wPlan03.

6. Commission Consideration to Move Plans Forward

Chair Morgan explained the process that she proposes that the Commission will follow to move plans forward to be fair to all plans. Staff will hand out a matrix that lists all the plans and attached to the matrix is a ballot. Chair Morgan instructed the Commissioners to write down up to 3 maps that they think stand the best chance of being fixed. A tally will be taken, and the 3 top vote getters will be the first set of maps to get a chance to move forward by majority vote. Other plans are not rejected, but will stay in inventory and can be moved forward at a later date by majority vote of the Commission. She instructed the Commissioners to write only the official name that the plans have been assigned. One plan cannot be written down three times. With no objection to process, the Commission moved forward as suggested by Chair Dr. Morgan to narrow the plans for consideration to a manageable number.

Commissioner Garcia voted for cPlan16, wPlan03 and pPlan05.
 Commissioner Loza voted for wPlan03, cPlan04 and cPlan16.
 Commissioner Sherman voted for wPlan01, wPlan03 and wPlan24b.
 Commissioner Ratcliff voted for cPlan04, cPlan16 and wPlan03.
 Commissioner Brashear voted for cPlan05, pPlan14 and wPlan03.
 Commissioner Lozano (Absent)
 Commissioner Mays voted for cPlan16, cPlan04, and wPlan03.

Commissioner Hasan voted for wPlan01, pPlano5 cPlan16.
Commissioner Griffith voted for wPlan03, cPlan05 and cPlan04.
Commissioner Halstead voted for cPlan05, wPlan03 and pPlan05.
Commissioner Hord voted for wPlan01, wPlan03 and cPlan05.
Commissioner Wood voted for wPlan03, cPlan05 and cPlan16.
Commissioner Jones voted for wPlan03, cPlan04 and cPlan05.
Commissioner Love voted for cPlan16, wPlan16 and wPlan55a.
Commissioner Morgan voted for wPlan03, wPlan16 and cPlan05.

- wPlan03 received 12 votes.
- cPlan05 received 7 votes.
- cPlan16 received 7 votes.
- cPlan04 received 5 votes.
- wplan01 received 3 votes.
- pPlan05 received 3 votes.
- wPlan16 received 2 votes.
- wPlan24b received 1 votes.

- Motion: Commissioner Wood moved to move wPlan03 forward for continued consideration and modification. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sherman.
 - Ayes: 12
 - Nays: 2

Motion Passed (Commissioners Hasan and Love voted against the motion. Commissioner Lozano was absent.)

- Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to move cPlan05 forward for continued consideration and modification. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halstead.

A roll call vote followed:

Commissioner Garcia voted No
Commissioner Loza voted No
Commissioner Sherman voted No
Commissioner Ratcliff voted No
Commissioner Brashear voted Yes
Commissioner Lozano (Absent)
Commissioner Mays voted Yes
Commissioner Hasan voted No
Commissioner Griffith voted Yes
Commissioner Halstead voted Yes
Commissioner Hord voted Yes
Commissioner Wood voted Yes
Commissioner Jones voted Yes
Commissioner Love voted No
Commissioner Morgan voted Yes

The motion passed: 8-6

- Motion: Commissioner Hasan moved to move cPlan16 forward for continued consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loza.

A roll call vote followed:

Commissioner Brashear voted No
Commissioner Garcia voted Yes
Commissioner Griffith voted No
Commissioner Halstead voted No
Commissioner Hasan voted Yes
Commissioner Hord voted No
Commissioner Jones voted Yes
Commissioner Love voted Yes
Commissioner Loza voted Yes
Commissioner Lozano (absent)
Commissioner Mays voted Yes
Commissioner Morgan voted No
Commissioner Ratcliff voted Yes
Commissioner Sherman voted Yes
Commissioner Wood voted Yes

The motion passed: 9-5

7. Commission Discussion and Consideration to Give Directions to Staff on Modifying Plans Moved Forward

- Motion: Commissioner Sherman moved to direct staff to create a map that will show the impact of the 12 modifications submitted by Mr. Betzen for wPlan03 that the commission received. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones.
 - Ayes: 13
 - Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Lozano and Hasan were not present at the vote).

- Motion: Commissioner Halstead moved to direct the staff to do an overlay of cPlan13a (testimony) for each of the plans that were moved forward so the Commission can see the changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays.
 - Ayes: 13
 - Nays: 0

The motion passed unanimously (Commissioners Lozano and Hasan were not present at the vote).

8. Public Speaking

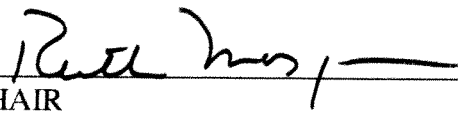
- Jada Wooten resides at 4724 Coles Manor in District 2. There is no housing for African American in Freedmen's Town in North Dallas in District 14. She would like to see Freedmen's Town and Griggs Park removed from District 14 as those areas have nothing in common with Uptown and the Art Districts. African Americans in downtown Dallas are profiled in this area because there is no housing. This is unfortunate, since African Americans were living here since 1865 and don't exist now in that location.

9. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

- None

10. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm.



CHAIR



COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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