

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 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

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
Warren Ernst, Asst. City Attorney

Commission Members Absent:

None

Members of the Public Present: 25

Media Present: 1

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

1. Opening Remarks

- Dr. Morgan expressed appreciation to staff for work done in preparing maps for forthcoming meetings. It took 54 hours of staff time to prepare the written district boundaries for the plans that was requested by the Commission at the last meeting.
- The chair reminded the commissioners and general public that staff does not share email and phone numbers of Commissioners. They will contact the Commissioner and inform them of the request. Then the Commissioner will respond.
- The chair does not speak for the commission, and any comment that the chair makes will be public record only. There will be no off-the-record information from the Chair.

2. Approval of June 28, 2011 Minutes

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- Motion: Commissioner Halstead moved to approve the Tuesday, June 28, 2011 Minutes.
 - Seconded: Commissioner Brashear
 - Commissioner Wood corrected Mr. Mike Sanderson comments on page seven to read “The Bowie Elementary School attendance zone will be split, as will a number of HOAs involved in the Preston Ridge Trail.”
 - Commissioner Ratcliff corrected his statement on page one to read “plan to submit” instead of “will be submitting.”
- The motion to approve the Minutes as amended was then considered
- Ayes: 14
 - Nays: 0
- Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously Commissioner Hasan had not arrived)

Approval of June 30, 2011 Minutes

- Motion: Commissioner Hord moved to approve the June 30, 2011 Minutes
 - Seconded: Commissioner Loza
 - Ayes: 15
 - Nays: 0
- Motion Passed: 15-0 (unanimously)

3. Staff Updates

- Project Manager Tolliver informed the Commission that the Plan Submission page showing the plans submitted to the Redistricting Commission is now available on the City’s Redistricting website
 - The computer workstation on the 6th Floor of the Central Library will remain open for the public to use, and web-based application will remain active for commissioners and city council members, however the application is closed to public. The Computer Lab at the Redistricting Project Office is also closed to everyone but the Redistricting Commission.
- Project Manager Tolliver reviewed the Commission Map Formatting Request Update.
 - www.cityofdallas/redistricting contains all the plans that have been submitted that have been prepared. Staff has only enough time to prepare two maps a day.
- Assistant City Attorney McAninch reviewed the Process for Presentation of Plans Submissions and the Rules for Public Speakers.

4. Commissioner Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentation

- None

5. Public Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentation

a) wPlan03 Submission Summary

Demographer Lindsay Kramer gave an overview of wPlan03. This plan has an average deviation of 0.07%. The total deviation range is 2.77%. The plan includes 8 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts. This plan meets the contiguity and compactness tests.

b) wPlan03 Submission Presentation

Mr. Bill Betzen from District 8 presented wPlan03. He referred the Commissioners to the Compactness Spreadsheet on page 14 of his handout. The average index score for the average of the 4 measurements for each of the 14 districts is 1.35%. He eliminated 166 miles of boundaries. He noted that wPlan03 has 5 Hispanic districts. Page 13 of the handout compared all plans to date with the demographics and compactness scores. He concluded that on Page 1, fourth paragraph down, in the handout that the Redistricting Commission needs to design the City Council lines in a way that will not require a story to go with them in future years.

c) wPlan03 Questions

A question/answer session followed.

d) wPlan03 Public Comment

Mr. Mike Sanderson, residing at 5823 Fallview, represents Prestonwood Westlake Homeowner Association, Prestonwood West Master Homeowner Association, Prestonwood East Homeowner Association, Hillcrest Manor and Highland North Association in District 12. North Dallas Alliance in Districts 11 and 12 will be affected by this map. Highland North Homeowner Association will be split in half. It will also split Hillcrest Manor and the Bowie Elementary School attendance zone. These are the reasons that he opposes this map. We have a map that will be presented at the July 28th meeting, wPlan51 that does not split any of these association or attendance zones.

e) wPlan12 Submission Summary

Demographer Lindsay Kramer gave an overview of wPlan12. This plan has an average population deviation of 0.63%. The total deviation range is 1.91%. The plan includes 6 minority districts and 3 minority coalition districts. Packing is noted in the total Hispanic Population of District 6 (70.08%); however, this percentage drops to 64.41% in the total Hispanic Voting Age Population in the same district. This plan meets the contiguity and compactness tests.

f) wPlan12 Submission Presentation

Mr. Benjamin Lopez from District 14 residing at 4847 N Central Expressway presented wPlan12. He noted that no paid consultants worked on this plan. District 1 is a Hispanic majority district. District 2 was originally planned to be African-American majority district. By moving some boundaries for District 2 and Districts 7 and 8 it could be

an African-American majority district. District 3 creates a united west Dallas and North Oak Cliff that is a Hispanic majority district. District 4 is an African-American majority district. District 5 is the largest in area. District 6 includes Love Field and somewhat resembles the current district. District 7 has the Ferguson Road corridor, Buckner Terrace, and Pleasant Grove. District 8 is centered in Pleasant Grove. District 9 is a white majority district centered on White Rock Lake, District 10 represents Northeast Dallas, and it is a minority coalition district. District 11 includes areas from North Dallas, while District 12 is similar to its current shape. District 13 keeps the Vickery Meadows area united in one district. District 14 is generally in the same area, and tries to keep Uptown, Oaklawn, Victory Park, and a large portion of the Central Business District together. This plan has 4 White, 2 African-American, and 4 Hispanic districts. However, if changes were made to the borders of Districts 2, 7, and 8, District 2 could be made into an African-American majority district.

g) wPlan12 Questions

A question/answer session followed

h) wPlan12 Public Comment

None

i) wPlan16 Submission Summary

Demographer Lindsay Kramer gave an overview of wPlan16. This plan has an average deviation of 0.03%. The total deviation range is 0.15%. This plan includes 7 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts. Packing is noted in the total Hispanic Population in Districts 1 and 6; however, the total Hispanic Voting Age Population falls below 70%. The plan meets the contiguity and compactness tests.

j) wPlan16 Submission Presentation

Sam Merten presented wPlan16. He thanked the staff and commission for providing a user-friendly web-based application. He is resident of Frisco who works in Dallas. He first sought to create districts that better represent minority population by creating 4 Hispanic majority districts. He also created African-American majority districts in Districts 4, 7, and 8. He also established 2 minority coalition districts where African-American and Hispanic voting age populations are in the majority. A Pleasant Grove district would not fit in one district, but District 5 attempts to get a majority of Pleasant Grove into one seat. Merten redrew District 14 to end at the North Dallas Tollway and to ensure that District 14 included all of downtown and the Trinity River project. Overall, he tried to keep all the districts looking somewhat intact.

k) wPlan16 Questions

A question/answer session followed

l) wPlan16 Public Comment

Mr. Jay Heffner, residing at 7624 Pennyburn Drive, is a member of the Highland North Homeowner Association, and would like to remain in District 12.

- m) wPlan45 Submission Summary
Demographer Lindsay Kramer summarized staff analysis of wPlan45. This plan had an average deviation of 0.15%, and the total population deviation range was 0.79%. The plan includes 7 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts. Packing is noted in District 1 where the total Hispanic Population exceeds 70%; however the total Hispanic Voting Age Population is 67.70%. This plan meets the contiguity and compactness tests.
- n) wPlan45 Submission Presentation
Ms. Shirley Stark from District 4 presented wPlan45. She stated that she wanted to bring things together in the South and make them compact. She went to several of the public hearings, listened to the video and was encouraged by people in the Buckner Terrace, Bruton, and Piedmont areas to come up with a better map. She spoke to the parks department and spoke with neighborhood groups.
- o) wPlan45 Questions
A question/answer session followed
- p) wPlan45 Public Comment
None

- 6. Commission Discussion and Vote on Plans for Consideration
 - a) wPlan03 (None)
 - b) wPlan12 (None)
 - c) wPlan16 (None)
 - d) wPlan45 (None)

7. Commission Discussion and Vote on Previous Commission Directed Modified Plans

Commissioner Loza would like to know how these plans continue without being approved by the Commission. The Chair advised the Commission that all plans submitted to the Commission move forward automatically until modified by direction of the Commission. The intent is to allow the Commission to view all plans submitted before making any final decisions. However Commissioners are always free to make any motion regarding a specific plan.

- a) Public Comments
 - None
- b) cPlan10a
 - Motion: Commissioner Griffith moved to restore the area between St. Francis, Ferguson Road and the railroad back into District 9 as it was in the original submission of cPlan10.
Seconded: Commissioner Halstead
 - Ayes: 15 Nays: 0

Motion Passed: 15-0 (unanimously)

- Motion: Commissioner Garcia moved to postpone consideration of cPlan10a indefinitely.

Seconded: Commissioner Hasan

A roll call vote was taken:

District 1 Commissioner Garcia = Yes
District 2 Commissioner Loza = Yes
District 3 Commissioner Sherman = No
District 4 Commissioner Ratcliff = Yes
District 5 Commissioner Brashear = Yes
District 6 Commissioner Lozano = Yes
District 7 Commissioner Mays = Yes
District 8 Commissioner Hasan = Yes
District 9 Commissioner Griffith = No
District 10 Commissioner Halstead = No
District 11 Commissioner Hord = No
District 12 Commissioner Wood = No
District 13 Commissioner Jones = No
District 14 Commissioner Love = Yes
Chair Ruth Morgan = No

Motion Passed: 8-7

c) wPlan24a

d) wPlan24b

- Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to modify wPlan24a and wPlan24b to return the area bordered by I635 (North), Midway Road (East), Forest Lane (South), Webb Chapel (West) back into District 13 and remove it from District 6.

Seconded: Commissioner Sherman

A roll call vote was taken:

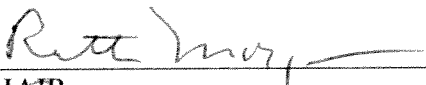
District 5 Commissioner Brashear = Yes
District 1 Commissioner Garcia = No
District 9 Commissioner Griffith = Yes
District 10 Commissioner Halstead = Yes
District 8 Commissioner Hasan = No
District 11 Commissioner Hord = No
District 13 Commissioner Jones = Yes
District 14 Commissioner Love = Yes
District 2 Commissioner Loza = Yes
District 6 Commissioner Lozano = No
District 5 Commissioner Mays = No
Chair Ruth Morgan = No
District 4 Commissioner Ratcliff = No
District 3 Commissioner Sherman = Yes
District 12 Commissioner Wood = No
Motion Failed: 7-8


8. Commission Discussion and Vote to Give Direction to Staff on Modifying Plans Approved for Continued Consideration
 - None

9. Public Speakers
 - Virginia McAlester, residing at 5703 Swiss Avenue in District 14, expressed concern with wPlan10a. The plan demolishes District 14 and District 2. She looks forward to seeing a plan that maintains the cohesion of these two districts.
 - Gail Terrell, residing at 1445 Firebird Drive in District 8, wants to remain in District 8 and retain her current councilmember (Mr. Atkins). Only Plan 03 leaves her in her district. She lives in Hidden Valley.
 - Neil Emmons, District 14 residing at 2525 Sherman Creek in Oak Lawn, stated that he came out to speak on cplan10a. He looks forward to map that will unite the city.

10. Additional Questions/Final Remarks
 - None

11. Adjournment
 - At 9:09 pm the meeting was adjourned.



 CHAIR


 COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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