

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
TUESDAY, JUNE 07, 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

Commission Members Absent: 0

Members of the Public Present: 3
Media Present: 1

CITY SECRETARY
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
 - Discussion of agenda scheduling by getting a list of what the commissioners plan to submit to the commission
 - Commissioner Garcia plans to submit one citywide plan and one map with only the southern sector
 - Commissioner Wood plans to submit one map involving only Districts 11 and 12
 - Commission Halstead plans to submit a citywide plan that may be adjusted by others
 - Commissioner Hord will not submit a full plan but will submit a map for District 11 and its surrounding districts
 - Commissioner Griffith plans to submit a map for District 9 but will not submit a full plan
 - Commissioner Hasan plans to submit a citywide plan unless one from another commissioner meets all of her concerns

- Commissioner Love plans to submit a citywide map, but will also be on a collaboration map
 - Commissioner Loza plans to submit a map for District 2 but will not submit a full plan
 - Commissioner Lozano will not submit a full plan but will work with others to develop a plan
 - Commissioner Jones plans to submit a map for District 13, but will not submit a full plan; however she will provide information regarding split communities in District 13 that need to be made whole in any plan produced
- Dr. Morgan, Chair asked the Commission if staff should begin producing alternative starter maps based on the direction of the commission. Staff will add and subtract to the map as directed by the entire commission. Further discussion on staff producing maps will be deferred until later in the meeting.
2. Approval of April 19, 2011 Minutes
- Motion: Commissioner (Loza) moved to approve the Tuesday, April 19, 2011 minutes with the correction of changing Arlington Heights to Arlington Park in Commissioner Loza's District 2 report.
 - Seconded: Commissioner (Hord)
 - Ayes: 10
 - Nays: 0
 Motion Passed: 10-0 (unanimously- Ratcliff, Mays, Lozano, Sherman, and Brashear absent at time of vote)
3. Commission Attendance & Absence Approval
- Manager Tolliver presented two documents reflecting all absences by Commissioners to date and requests for excused absences. She told the Commission that only absences with a doctor's excuse for illness are automatically excused. For all other absences, the Commission must make a recommendation to the City Council to excuse the absences and the City Council has the authority to excuse the absences if it votes to do so.
 - Ms. Tolliver warned Commissioners that if they miss 3 meetings in a row they would subject to automatic removal from the commission.
 - Ms. Tolliver told the Commission that if they miss 25% of the meetings in a year and the absences are not excused, they will be removed from the Commission, but the Commission hopes to complete its work before one year's time
 - Commission members did not have one of the two documents and the item was deferred until after next item on agenda.
4. Public Plan Submission Review Process

Barbara McAninch, Asst. City Attorney informed the Commission of the review process that the staff will perform for each plan submission and the information that what will be presented to them as a result of the review.

- The first test will be for Contiguity. A plan that is submitted with non-contiguous area, will be returned to the submitter for correction. No plan will be presented to the Commission that is not contiguous.
- Population Equality - The staff will inform the Commission of the total population deviation between the largest district and the smallest district. A plan with 5% or more deviation will be presented to the Commission with a warning. A plan with a deviation of more than 10% will not be accepted.
- Compactness- Four tests developed by political scientists and researchers will be used to measure the compactness of each district in the plan. The more compact the district, the closer to 100 the score; the less compact the closer to 0 for the score. The four tests are:
 - Reock
 - Convex Hull
 - Polsby-Popper
 - Schwartzberg
- Compliance with the Voting Rights Act is measured by the program, and the staff will provide the number of minority districts, influence districts and coalition districts. A plan that does not meet the baseline requirements of the 2001 plan as impacted by the 2010 Census will not be accepted. If the plan submitter does not want to make the necessary changes to the plan, the plan will be submitted to the Commission only as testimony.

Staff will not provide any information about incumbency in accordance with the guidelines to remain neutral. Also, staff will not be able to measure compliance with the community of interest guideline unless there is specific direction from the Commission.

Project Manager Tolliver discussed the absence reports in the packet and pointed out that Commissioner Jones had previously requested approval and the Commission had voted to excuse 2 absences that had to be moved to the following week due to change in scheduling of her travel for a meeting.

Commissioner Halstead moved to excuse Commissioner Jones' absences for the Public Hearings and the other absences on the list provided by Manager Tolliver of other Commissioners who had requested that their absences be excused.

Commissioner Loza seconded the motion

- Ayes: 14

- Nays: 0

Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously - Brashear will not present at the time the vote was taken)

5. Staff Updates

Project Manager Tolliver discussed the options for public map submission including the following ways

- Computer Lab at the Redistricting Office LIAN
- Terminals at the Central Library
- Web-based application

Project Manager Tolliver discussed the June Commission meeting schedule
Commissioner Griffith moved to move the July 7th reserve meeting to July 14th
Commissioner Halstead seconded the motion

- Ayes: 14
- Nays: 0
- Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously – Brashear was not present at the time of the vote)

Commissioner Ratcliff moved to change the commission meeting on July 28th to a reserve for a potential called commission meeting.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion

- Ayes: 14
- Nays: 0
- Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously- Brashear was not present at the time of the vote)

The Commission approved the changed schedules for June, July and August with a consensus that the proposed additional meeting dates on the calendar can be used for meetings called by the Chair with the notice required by the Open Meetings Act.

Discussion about the staff drawing a variety of starter maps at the direction of the Commission will be deferred until the next meeting on June 14, 2011.

6. Commissioner District Reports

Commissioner Ratcliff reported that the population of District 4 has increased by 4.4% or by 3,583 between 2000 and 2010. It only needs to reduce its population by 113 people to meet the 85,558 goal. The economic development in the district includes DART, Aldi grocery store, HUD Turner Courts which has a project in the amount of about 23 million in the works, and the Dallas Zoo that has just added a new exhibit for the elephants. Property values are down 4.7% which is only 2% of the city's total. The district only has 2.2% of new construction and 12% of the city's commercial real estate. As of 2010, District 4's labor force consists of about 32,000 people. Commission Ratcliff said that he heard the public hearing testimony from Districts 4 and 7 stresses that Buckner Terrace be kept in one district and that a Pleasant Grove district should be created. Residents of Districts 4 and 7 also expressed a concern not to forget about the Kleberg-Rylie neighborhood in far southeast Dallas.

Commissioner Mays reported that District 7 population lost about 6,000 people between 2000 and 2010. The Hispanic population of the district increased. 48% of District 7's Voting Age Population (VAP) is African American, 36% is Hispanic, and 14% is White. Improvements in the district include town homes and street repairs on Bexar Street; Baylor Hospital has added a diabetic clinic near the Frasier Court area. A lot of the old buildings in the District have been removed. The District has no economic growth in and investors are needed. The DART Green Line has also extended through the South Dallas and Pleasant Grove area and the District wants to encourage development around the DART stations.

Commissioner Jones reported that District 13 is racially balanced. The Hispanic population grew since 2000 while the African American and Anglo population has decreased. Most of the houses in District 13 were built before 1980. It has many active neighborhood associations (83 identified groups) and is extremely compact (about 22.2 square miles). District 13 includes some of the wealthiest as well as the poorest in Dallas. Vickery Meadows is in District 13, and it is one of the lower crime areas in Dallas with very high density. The District is educationally diverse with both private and public schools. New schools have been built in the district. District 13 generates 18.4% of the city's total property tax revenue. District 13 needs to add 4,680 people. It has only a few green spaces with almost no walking or biking trails. 85% of District 13 residents have high school education or better and 50% have a college degree.

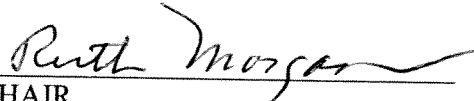
Commissioner Love reported that District 14 has a population of 98,743, a growth of 12,416 with 60,000 registered voters. The district includes Love Field Airport, as well as the Arts District and other city amenities. The District has 20% of the city's taxable property base. Most of the neighborhoods in District 14 were developed prior to 1948 and have the same issues in common regarding aging infrastructure and noise from Love Field.

After the completion of the Commissioner's district reports, Commissioner Ratcliff opened up the discussion about staff creating a map overlay of the areas discussed in public hearings and giving them to the whole commission. Manager Tolliver informed the commission that the public testimony has been put into a list format by staff and the information is scheduled to be presented at the next Commission meeting.

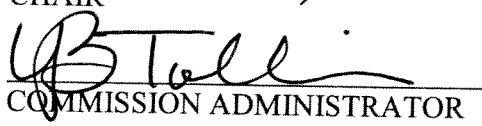
Motion to authorize any commissioner to give staff information about the boundaries of neighborhoods and other areas to be reflected in an overlay area on a map was made and withdrawn by Commissioner Ratcliff. Commissioner Ratcliff decided to wait until the next meeting after reviewing the list of testimony provided by the staff.

7. Public Speakers

- No public speakers
8. Additional Questions/Final Remarks
 - No final remarks
 9. Adjournment
 - Dr. Morgan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM



CHAIR



COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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