

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011**

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Ruth Morgan, Chair
Billy Ratcliff, Vice Chair
Hollis Brashear
Domingo Garcia
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:

Gary Griffith

Members of the Public Present: 6

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 reminded commission members to please speak into the microphone to ensure that meeting was properly recorded and audible for the record.

2. Approval of June 07, 2011 Minutes
 - Motion: Commissioner Loza moved to approve the Tuesday, June 07, 2011 minutes
 - Seconded: Commissioner Jones
 - o Ayes: 12
 - o Nays: 0

Motion Passed: 12-0 (unanimously approved. Commissioners Garcia, Mays and Griffith were absent at time of vote.)

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3. Staff Updates

- Manager Tolliver informed the commission that 45 requests for web application accounts, 11 requests for computer lab accounts and 1 request for the library computer terminal have been received from members of the public.
- Manager Tolliver asked Commissioners to submit their plans as soon as possible to allow enough time for their submissions to be reviewed by staff and to place them on the presentation schedule. Manager Tolliver reminded the Commissioners that the public will also be given the opportunity to present their plan submissions. The Commissioners should submit their plans as soon as possible to allow enough time for the public to present their maps and/or plans.
- June 30, 2011 is the deadline for submission of plans by both the public and Commission members.

4. Review of Public Hearing Testimony

(a) Round Table: Commissioner's view on the three most significant public requests learned from the public testimony

Dr. Morgan asked the Commissioners to inform the group of what major messages they took away from the ten public hearings.

- Commissioner Love – Pleasant Grove wants to be in its own district and its western boundary is White Rock Creek. Uniformly throughout the city residents were insistent that districts should not split neighborhoods.
- Commissioner Hasan- Pleasant Grove does deserve a district, and given its population, will probably need more than one district. There is a concern for Kleberg-Riley not being isolated; and keeping neighborhoods together is important across the city.
- Commissioner Sherman- Pleasant Grove needs its own district, North Oak Cliff wants to be in one district, and West Dallas needs to be in a single district.
- Commissioner Brashear – Unfortunately, we need more than 14 council districts to meet all the neighborhood requests! There is a need for compactness in southern Dallas. District 3 is overpopulated and must be adjusted. Hidden Valley neighborhood wants to be in District 5.
- Commissioner Loza – There were 4 top requests: 1. Pleasant Grove wants to be in its own district. 2. Oak Cliff wants to stay in District 3 and keep its neighborhoods together. 3. Buckner Terrace wants to be in one district. 4. Ferguson Road Initiative wants to be in one district. Also noted that District 1 and 6 have a high Hispanic population percentage, and the new districts need to bring the percentage down to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

- Commissioner Ratcliff – People had concerns with communities of interest. Buckner Terrace wants to be in one district, and Pleasant Grove deserves a district. The minimum attendance in the northern districts indicates that they are okay with the way things are except to keep neighborhoods together and to get the population shifts corrected to even out the population of the districts.
- Dr. Morgan – Keep districts compact and do not divide neighborhoods. Also try not to divide voting precincts, although the voting precinct lines will change and are not in this Commission's control.
- Commissioner Halstead – General consensus that current districts in the west, east and southern part of the city are gerrymandered and are not good. 2. Pleasant Grove has enough people for almost 2 districts. 3. Put Oak Lawn back together by keeping PD 193 intact in a single district. 4. Ferguson Road Initiative should be in one district.
- Commissioner Wood – agrees with Halstead, Ratcliff, and Loza about gerrymandering needing to be corrected. The districts need to be compact, but we also have to balance population equality which will dictate what the Commission can do in some areas.
- Commissioner Jones – Communities and neighborhoods expressed interests and a commitment to be heard. The size of the districts and residents' concern with the past 20 year history of districting means that this Commission must deal with the changes in population and demographics. A 51-square mile district is not governable, and the representative cannot take care of the constituents. Areas of West Dallas would like to be preserved. Equal population is the biggest challenge. Also, the Commission also needs to represent the areas that could not make it to the public hearings and had no representation due to lack of transportation or just not wanting to speak.
- Commissioner Lozano – agreed with Halstead about not wanting gerrymandered districts. The people want compact districts. Pleasant Grove is in four districts and should be in two districts.
- Commissioner Hord – On the macro-level gerrymandering has resulted in geographically unmanageable districts with no ties with others in the district. Pleasant Grove, Oak Lawn, and West Dallas need unique districts. Start by drawing Pleasant Grove, and it will set the precedent for the rest of the districts in the south. Districts 11 and 12 had low turnout because these districts are already compact.
- Commissioner Mays- Compactness for all districts and keep neighborhoods together. West Dallas, Buckner Terrace, Pleasant Grove should be in unique districts. Districts 5 and 8 are gerrymandered and need to be corrected. Oak Lawn needs to be put back together in one district.
- Commissioner Garcia – West Dallas and Pleasant Grove felt like step children and not able to elect representatives of their choice so there is no connection to a representative for the district.

- Commissioner Jones – Be mindful of the fact that where people are moving and want to live affects the districts.

(b) Neighborhood overlay map direction for staff

Manager Tolliver reviewed the matrix of public testimony provided to the commissioners to allow the commission to choose which boundaries they want to use for an overlay map.

Dr. Morgan asked commissioners what they would like to see on the attempt at the first overlay map.

- Commissioner Ratcliff wants to see Buckner Terrace on the map with the boundaries Samuel Avenue to Fortney Road to Lawnview Rd to the Dallas City Limits)
- Commissioner Wood requested to see Pleasant Grove as two districts, but Commissioner Love suggested that they see the entire area together with the population as a base from which to understand how a district can be drawn. Commissioner Loza agreed that Pleasant Grove needed to be the largest boundary suggested by the speakers and then adjust it down.
- Commissioner Halstead reminded the Commission not to isolate Kleberg-Riley. She wants to see a map of PD193 Oak Lawn and the Ferguson Rd Initiative with the boundaries of Interstate 30 to Santa Fe railroad tracks to Dallas City Limits
- Commissioner Jones asks staff to check boundaries using the materials submitted by the Ferguson Road Initiative at the public hearings.
- Commissioner Love asked that we use the map presented at the public meeting by the Ferguson Road Initiative.
- Commissioner Jones wants to see an overlay of Oak Cliff Conservation League.
- Commissioner Loza wants to see an overlay of West Dallas with boundaries of I-30 to the Trinity River to downtown to the Dallas City Limits.
- Commissioner Jones suggested using the boundaries provided by the West Dallas Chamber of Commerce’s testimony submitted to the commission.
- Commissioner Ratcliff wants to see a map overlay of the South Dallas area, with the boundaries of CF Hawn Freeway (Highway 175) to Lamar Street to the Santa Fe RR to Interstate 30.
- Commissioner Jones wants to see Vickery Meadow put back together in one district. She wants the map overlay to show the Vickery Meadows Improvement District and the Vickery Meadows TIF.

5. Commission Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentations

Demographer Lindsay Kramer gave an overview of what will be checked on each plan submitted to the Redistricting Commission, such as Population Equality, Minority Representation, and Compactness scores. The report for the District 12 partial submission is attached.

Commissioner Tom Wood presented his partial plan submission that focused on District 12 (see attached documents). As District 12 was over the district population number by 9,046 people in the 2010 Census, his district plan moved the excess population from District 12 to District 11 which only affected one school. Choosing the section on the lower east side of District 12 was the best choice because the section on the west did not have enough population and moving the middle section would have affected 3 schools.

6. Public Speakers

- Bill Betzen (District 8) presented a map showing all 14 Districts as compact as possible, differing in population size by only 50 people in a district. He knows it is not a legal map but did so after hearing a comment made at the last meeting that the Commission would like to see what a map with maximum compactness and almost perfect population would look like.


7. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

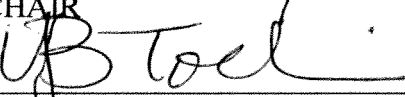
- No final remarks.

8. Adjournment

- Commissioner Wood moved to adjourn the meeting
- Commissioner Love seconded the motion
 - o Ayes: 14
 - o Nays: 0
 - o Motion Passed: 14-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.



CHAIR


COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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