

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 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

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:

Tom Wood

Members of the Public Present: 9

Media Present: 1

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

1. Opening Remarks
  - None
  
2. Approval of June 14, 2011 Minutes
  - Motion: Commissioner Griffith moved to approve the Tuesday, June 14, 2011 Minutes.
  - Seconded: Commissioner Jones

Commissioner Hord corrected page 3, line 34 to add the word "geographically" in front of unmanageable districts and to remove "over 25 miles" so that his statement reads: "On the macro-level gerrymandering has resulted in geographically unmanageable districts with no ties with others in the district."

The motion to approve the Minutes as amended was then considered.

  - Ayes: 10
  - Nays: 0

CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS

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Motion Passed: 10-0 (unanimously. Members Love, Garcia, Brashear, and Lozano had not yet arrived.)

3. Staff Updates

- Manager Tolliver informed the commission that as of June 21, there have been 50 requests for web accounts, 13 requests for computer lab accounts in the Redistricting Office, and 1 account for the library workstation at the Central Library.
  - All plans must be received by June 30, 2011 at 5:00pm CDT.
  - Presenters tonight should use the wireless microphone when using maps so that the video recording will maintain full audio of the presentation.
  - Overlay maps of the various neighborhoods as requested by Redistricting Commission members are included in the packets.

4. Commissioner Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentation

a. Discussion of Plan Presentation Process

- Assistant City Attorney McAninch went over the proposed process for the plan presentations.

1. The staff demographer will go over the submission summary for the plan speaker. The submission summary and full packet will be sent to Commission on Friday prior to the meeting on Tuesday. Thursday evening meetings will begin in late July and the submission summary and full packet will be sent on Monday prior to the meeting on Thursday.

2. Each presenter shall identify himself or herself, the district in which he/she resides or works and whether the plan is an individual plan or made on behalf of a group. Any outside consultants who assisted with the plan shall be identified so that there is complete transparency to the Commission and public.

3. Each presenter of a city-wide plan shall be allowed \_\_ minutes, followed by a time period of \_\_ minutes for questions from Commissioners that will not be counted against the presenter. The Commission discussed the time for each presenter and initially suggested 15 minutes for the presentation and 20 minutes for the Commission question period. Those times will be added to the draft for final consideration by the Commission at its next meeting.

4. At the end of the plan presentations at each meeting, motions will be entertained to maintain selected plans for further consideration and for directions to staff to make changes to the plan.

5. If a majority of the Commission has requested staff to make changes to a submitted plan, the Commission will review the result of the changes to the plan at a subsequent meeting. Any plan so selected by the Commission for further consideration will be posted on the Redistricting Website with the accompanying materials for review and comment by the public. Staff will use a numbering system that links the edited version(s) of the plan with the original submission and will provide a Submission

Summary showing the demographic changes in each category between the original submission and the plan with the request changes.

Commissioner Jones requested that the process include a method of highlighting the changes made by staff within the map for the plan to reflect the Commission –directed changes.

Commissioner Brashear raised the issue of whether plan consideration should be a simple majority vote or a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote. The Chair advised that the rules of the Commission require a majority vote. If the Commission wants to institute a vote that is greater than a simple majority, the Commission needs to so move and approve such a vote.

Motion: Commissioner Ratcliff moved that the Commission’s decision on process be deferred until the following meeting, but that the presentations scheduled for tonight continue with presenters abiding by the spirit of the process discussed tonight with the decision to be made at the next meeting whether to move any of the plans forward that were presented at this meeting.

Commission Brashear seconded the motion

o Ayes: 14

Nays: 0

Motion Passed: 14-0 (unanimously)

b) cPlan10 Submission Summary

. Demographer Kramer gave an overview of cPlan10. The average population equality deviation is 1.03%, while the total range of deviation is 6.07%. This plan includes 7 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts. This plan meets the contiguity and compactness tests.

c) cPlan10 Presentation

. Commissioner Halstead presented her full plan submission as a starting point to get the Commission started on making changes and coming to decisions on an acceptable plan. She said that she attempted to draw a fair, compact plan that was responsive to each of the speakers who testified at the public hearings. She presented her rationale for each district in her plan. District 1 is now located on the eastern edge of the city, and is a plurality Hispanic district that should be considered a minority opportunity district. District 2 is a core city district that has a number of the city’s entertainment areas. District 3 includes Fair Park, 5 high schools, and 6 recreation centers. District 4 includes Paul Quinn College, 2 high schools, and 5 recreation centers. District 5 is an African American district that includes Five Mile Creek, UNT of Dallas, 3 high schools, and 2 recreation centers. District 6 is in the Northwestern area of city, is a Hispanic district that includes 2 high schools, and 7 recreation centers. District 7 is Hispanic seat that covers the north section of Pleasant Grove. District 8 is an African American district that

includes 2 recreation centers and 2 high schools. District 9 includes 1 high school and 1 recreation center. District 10 changed very little, but put all of the Lake Highlands School District in one City Council district. District 11 pushes population into District 13. District 12 is as Commissioner Wood presented it. District 13 reunites the Vickery Meadows neighborhood. District 14 is an Hispanic district that moves to Oak Cliff and West Dallas and also includes Downtown.

A question/answer session followed.

5. Public Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentations

a) pPlan03 Submission Summary

- Demographer Kramer gave an overview of pPlan03. The average deviation is 1.21%, and the total range of deviation is 4.24%. This plan includes 8 minority districts and 2 minority influenced districts. This plan meets the contiguity and compactness tests

b). pPlan03

- Bill Betzen, a resident of District 8, presented pPlan03. He stated that the goal of his first plan was to create a map of districts that are as compact as possible. This plan is drawn using major thorough-fares as the boundaries of districts whenever possible and eliminated 178.92 miles of district boundary lines. It achieves an average district perimeter of 30.74 miles. The 5 majority Hispanic districts have an average population of 64.02% with a VAP average of 58.33%, and the 3 majority black districts have an average population of 56.19% and an average VAP of 58.40%. Mr. Betzen is proud of two historical matters he was able to achieve by reuniting Little Mexico in downtown Dallas with the Hispanic population of District 1 and putting the Freedman's neighborhood near downtown Dallas into District 4.

c) Discussion

- Questions were asked about which of Mr. Betzen's plans he prefers. He indicated that pPlan03 was an early plan, and he likes the compactness of the plan, but he likes the minority representation that he achieved with the other plans without sacrificing compactness completely. He told the Commission that in drawing the plans, there has to be a balancing of the different objectives and it is a difficult process. In response to questions about why there are not 4 African-American districts, Mr. Betzen responded that he spent a great deal of time trying to do so, but was not able to draw a 4<sup>th</sup> black majority district.

d) wPlan 24 Submission Summary

- Demographer Kramer gave an overview of the Plan Submission Summary. The total population deviation is 2.82% with an average deviation of 0.71%. The plan includes 8 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts and is not retrogressive. The plan meets the contiguity and compactness criteria.

- e) wPlan24
  - Bill Betzen, a resident of District 8, presented wPlan24. In this plan he attempted to improve the minority district percentages so he compromised somewhat on compactness. The miles of boundary lines eliminated were reduced to 147.84 and the average district perimeter increased to 32.96 miles, still less than the 43.52 miles in the current districting plan. The plan has 5 Hispanic districts with an average population of 67.63% and a Hispanic VAP of 61.75%. The plan has 3 black districts with an average black population of 58.61% and an average black VAP of 59.77%.
- f) Discussion: Commissioners asked questions regard wPlan24.

6. Public Speakers

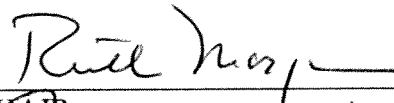

- Asst. City Attorney McAninch read the rules for speaking to all meeting attendees.
- Council Member Carolyn Davis (District 7) informed the Commission about a Dallas Morning News article she had read on Sunday that indicated that perhaps there will be 3 African-American districts, 5 Hispanic districts and 6 Anglo districts. She asked that the Redistricting process be a fair and balanced process for all. She indicated that District 7 has 74,000 people which is short only 6,000 people. She pointed out that there are minority residents living in Districts 10, 11, and 12. She asked the Commission to remember that Dallas lost over 75,000 Anglos who have moved out of the city. She told the Commission that in a fair process, they need to look at Dallas as a whole and as long as she is a council member the city will maintain 4 African American seats. 14-1 was designed to be a fair process. She is working on District 7 and is at 82,000 and has not changed the district much. The Ferguson Road Initiative is in District 7 and would like to remain in District 7.
- Ms. Ann Murphy, residing at 19125 Windmill Lane from District 12, asked the Commission not to change District 12 as Commissioner Wood's plan last week recommended. The area that is excluded is part of a single neighborhood that all work with one another.
- Ms. Marla Biekman residing at 5739 Preston Fairways in District 12 is a member of the North Dallas Neighborhood Alliance. Ms. Biekman spoke against the proposed change for District 12 as it separates the Preston Ridge Trail Initiative and asked for guidance from the Commission as to how to submit a partial plan. The Chair indicated that the staff will provide her with information on preparing and submitting a partial plan at the end of the meeting.
- Mr. Keith McPhil at 4503 Junius Street, who resides in District 2 and works in District 14, spoke to the commission in regards to the entertainment district being put together. He wants District 14 to be the core of an entertainment district, but also wants to maintain the distinct ethnic and socio-economic distinctions between districts 2 and 14.

7. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

- No final remarks

8. Adjournment

- 8:39 meeting adjourned

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.