

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011**

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Ruth Morgan, Chair
Billy Ratcliff, Vice Chair
Hollis Brashear
Gary Griffith
Mary Hasan
Mark Hord
Elizabeth Jones
Jon Brooks Love
John Lozano
Stanley Mays
Tom Wood

Staff Present:

Barbara McAninch, Asst. City Attorney
Lindsay Kramer, Demographer
Peter Bratt, Redistricting Coordinator
Daisy Torres, Redistricting Coordinator
Arlicia Herron, Office Assistant

Commission Members Absent:

Domingo Garcia
Donna Halstead
John Loza
Daniel "Corky" Sherman

Members of the Public Present: 23

Media Present: 0

6:01 P.M. Meeting called to order by Chair, Dr. Ruth Morgan. A quorum was present.

1. Opening Remarks
 - None

2. Approval of Minutes for July 12, 2011
 - Motion: Commissioner Wood moved to approve the Minutes for July 12, 2011
 - Seconded: Commissioner Hord
 - Ayes: 9
 - Nays: 0

Motion Passed: unanimously (Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Halstead, Commissioner Love, Commissioner Loza, Commissioner Lozano, Commissioner Sherman were not present).

3. Commissioner Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentation
 - None

4. Public Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentation
 - a) Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary of wPlan43. wPlan43's deviation exceeds 5%. This plan has an average district population deviation of 1.33%. The total deviation range is 6.37%. The plan includes 8 minority districts and 1 minority coalition district, and meets the contiguity and compactness testing..
 - b) Mr. Keith McPhail, residing at 4503 Junius Street in District 2, presented wPlan43. This design is a baseline model for further work on redistricting plans. Plan wPlan43 addresses the desire among the population to draw four African American districts. Mr. McPhail's concern with doing this is that there really is a limited amount of geographic modifications one can do with this map without impacting the four majority African American Districts. This map also intended to create a united entertainment district in District 14.
 - c) Questions and answers for wPlan43
Commissioners questioned Mr. McPhail about the plan.
 - d) Public Comments for wPlan43 (None)
 - e) Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary for wPlan55. In wPlan55, the population deviation exceeds 5%. This plan has an average district population deviation of 1.47%. The total deviation range is 5.38%. The plan has eight minority districts and one minority coalition district, and meets the contiguity and compactness criteria established by the Redistricting Commission.
 - f) Mr. Keith McPhail, residing at 4503 Junius Street in District 2, presented wPlan55. The wPlan55 is changed from wPlan43 especially in regards to District 5 to recognize the growth in Hispanic population. District 7 divides at the Trinity River. District 4 absorbs what was part of District 5. Districts 2 pulls away from the Victory Park area.
 - g) Questions and answers for wPlan55
Commissioners questioned Mr. McPhail about the plan.
 - h) Public Comments for wPlan55 (None)
 - i) Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary of wPlan02. In wPlan02, the population deviation exceeded 10%. This plan has an average district population deviation of 3.36%. The total deviation range is 11.81%, and does not meet criteria for population equality. The plan includes five minority districts and three minority coalition districts, and represents retrogression of minority representation from 2001 council district boundaries. Packing is noted in District 1 for the total and voting age Hispanic population, for the

District 8 total and voting age Black and Hispanic population, and the Hispanic total population in District 6, although District 6's Hispanic population falls below 70%. Therefore, the plan does not meet criteria for minority representation and is presented for testimony only. The plan meets the criteria for compactness and contiguity..

j) Ms. Helene McKinney, residing at 8524 Bretshire in District 7, presented wPlan02. For her map she stated she wanted to make districts more compact. She didn't look in to what was in District 7. She looked at the population, compactness, and the highways when making this map. Highways are like barriers to a neighborhood. She is not happy with the zigzagging in her plan's District 6. She had no intention to hurt anyone's feelings about neighborhoods, because she didn't look at them.

k) Questions and answers for wPlan02
The Commission questioned Ms. McKinney about the plan.

l) Public Comments for wPlan02
None

5. Commission Discussion and Vote on Plan Consideration
- a) wPlan43
 - b) wPlan55

Main Motion: Commissioner Wood moved to postpone indefinitely consideration of wPlan43 and wPlan55.

Seconded: Commissioner Mays

Intervening Motion: Commissioner Brashear moved to divide the question.

Seconded: Commissioner Lozano

- Ayes: 10
- Nays: 1
- Motion Passed: (Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Halstead, Commissioner Loza, and Commissioner Sherman were absent)

Vote on the divided Main Motion: To postpone indefinitely consideration of wPlan43.

District 4 Commissioner Ratcliff= Yes

District 5 Commissioner Brashear= No

District 6 Commissioner Lozano=Yes

District 7 Commissioner Mays =Yes

District 8 Commissioner Hasan=Yes

District 9 Commissioner Griffith=Yes

District 11 Commissioner Hord=No

District 12 Commissioner Wood=Yes

District 13 Commissioner Jones=Yes

District 14 Commissioner Love=No

Chair Ruth Morgan=Yes

- Ayes: 8
- Nays: 3

Motion Passed: (Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Halstead, Commissioner Loza, and Commissioner Sherman were absent)

Vote on the second part of the divided Main Motion: To postpone indefinitely consideration of wPlan55

District 4 Commissioner Ratcliff= Yes
 District 5 Commissioner Brashear= No
 District 6 Commissioner Lozano=No
 District 7 Commissioner Mays =Yes
 District 8 Commissioner Hasan=Yes
 District 9 Commissioner Griffith=Yes
 District 11 Commissioner Hord=No
 District 12 Commissioner Wood=No
 District 13 Commissioner Jones=No
 District 14 Commissioner Love=No
 Chair Ruth Morgan=No

- Ayes: 4
- Nays: 7

Motion Failed: (Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Halstead, Commissioner Loza, and Commissioner Sherman were absent.)

Motion: Commissioner Love moved to direct staff to move the area south of Parry Avenue currently in District 14 to be placed in District 2 for wPlan55.

Seconded: Commissioner Brashear

District 4 Commissioner Ratcliff= Yes
 District 5 Commissioner Brashear= No
 District 6 Commissioner Lozano=Yes
 District 7 Commissioner Mays =No
 District 8 Commissioner Hasan=No
 District 9 Commissioner Griffith=Yes
 District 11 Commissioner Hord=Yes
 District 12 Commissioner Wood=Yes
 District 13 Commissioner Jones=Yes
 District 14 Commissioner Love=Yes
 Chair Ruth Morgan=Yes

- Ayes: 8
- Nays: 3

Motion Passed (Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Halstead, Commissioner Loza, and Commissioner Sherman were absent.)

Motion: Commissioner Hord moved for the Redistricting Commission to not entertain any additional amendments to plans until all of the plans have been presented, had public comment and been discussed.

Seconded: Commissioner Hasan

- Ayes: 11
- Nays: 0

Motion Passed: Unanimously (Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Halstead, Commissioner Loza, and Commissioner Sherman were absent).

Motion: Commissioner Hord moved for the Redistricting Commission to refrain from postponing indefinitely consideration of any additional plans until all plans submitted have been reviewed by the Commission.

Seconded: Commissioner Brashear

District 4 Commissioner Ratcliff= No
District 5 Commissioner Brashear= Yes
District 6 Commissioner Lozano=No
District 7 Commissioner Mays =No
District 8 Commissioner Hasan=No
District 9 Commissioner Griffith=Yes
District 11 Commissioner Hord=Yes
District 12 Commissioner Wood=No
District 13 Commissioner Jones=No
District 14 Commissioner Love=No
Chair Ruth Morgan=No

- Ayes: 3
- Nays: 8

Motion Failed 3-8: (Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Halstead, Commissioner Loza, and Commissioner Sherman were absent).

6. Commission Discussion and Vote on Previous Commission Directed Modified Plans
 - a) Public Comments (None)
 - b) Previous Commission Directed Modified Plans moved forward for continued consideration at the July 12, 2011 meeting with directions to staff for modification Presented (None)
 - c) Commission Discussion and Vote (None)
7. Commission Discussion and Vote to Give Direction to Staff on Modifying Plans Approved for Continued Consideration
 - None
8. Public Comment
 - Asst. City Attorney Barbara McAninch reviewed the rules for public speaking.

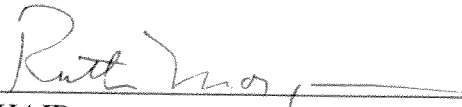
- Asst. City Attorney Barbara McAninch read a statement sent in by Sam Merten, who presented a plan on Tuesday July 12, 2011. Mr. Merten stated that after feedback he plans to improve wPlan16. It will contain 5 Hispanic districts. He has discussed with staff about how to use the web-based software to make updates to map. He had been told by staff that there is a possibility that the web-based software may be turned back on, and he supports that.
- Chair Ruth Morgan instructed staff to inform Mr. Merten that he can use the workstation at the Central Library to make changes to his plan.
- Crispin Lawson resides at 2300 Canton St # 1320 in District 14, and is President of Dallas Homeowner League (DHL). Mr. Lawson stated that the DHL supports the wishes of neighbors in regards to redistricting. Preference should be made to keep neighborhoods in the same district. The Farmers Market Neighborhood Association is a part of the Dallas Homeowner League and the Downtown Resident Council (Mr. Lawson is on this council's board). They have a desire to be placed in the same council district. They have a common community of interest, and would like to be included in the same district as uptown if possible. Upon questioning by the Commission, he stated that Knox is an appropriate boundary for such a district.
- Jim Rogers resides at 3208 Trevolle Place in District 14. He encouraged the commission to attempt to keep communities of interest that is recognized in East Dallas together. Ross Ave and Live Oak are major traffic arteries, and he would like to keep Ross Ave. and Live Oak together in a single district.
- Bill Betzen resides at 6717 Cliffwood in District 8. He stated that in wPlan03 Kessler can be moved into District 3 with minimal demographic damage. Also he would be willing to work on his plan wPlan03 with Commissioner Sherman. On the South side of the city probably 60% of the families will be losing their home districts because of the radical changes that will be necessary to become compact.
- Ben Lopez resides at 4847 N Central Expressway in District 14. He would like to see Knox Henderson included in a downtown district rather than in North Dallas or East Dallas.
- Neil Emmons resides at 2525 Turtlecreek in District 14. He thanked the Commission for its service. He said that McKinney Ave is a uniting factor in District 14, and he would like to keep PD193 together.
- Former Council Member Sandra Crenshaw resides at 1431 Quartet in District 8. Ms. Crenshaw said it is important to have an independent commission, and she is disappointed that citizens come down here and have members of the Commission to try and tell them what they should be telling you. It intimidates people from coming down. Ms. Crenshaw suggested that the

meetings be held in the city council chambers to provide for more room to allow more people to attend. She also wanted to have citizens be able to call in to sign up to speak before meeting. Also she would like to see the Commission remain independent without city council incumbents being involved in the process. All of the mess that people keep referring to in the south part of the city was the result of city council incumbent pressure.


- Gail Terrell resides at 1445 Firebird Dr. in District 8. Ms. Terrell wants to remain in District 8 and retain Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Akins as her councilman in District 8. She has collected 155 emails suggesting they feel the same way. Copies of the emails were given to Commissioner Hasan, and were given to staff to include in the public testimony record.
- John Bankston resides at 1861 Muleshoe in District 8. Mr. Bankston would like to see anything north of the I-175 freeway cut away from District 8, and would also like to see District 8 drawn as follows: south of I-175 over to Interstate 45 up to Rochester Park and 175. This district would be shaped like a pie. Mr. Bankston has also submitted a petition from the neighborhood and surrounding areas that were presented to Commissioner Hasan and given to staff to include in the public testimony record.

Chair Ruth Morgan reminded the Commission and the Public that according to the Rules, phones are not to be used in the room, either at the horseshoe or in the audience during meetings and that the Rule includes texting during the meeting.

9. Additional Questions/Final Remarks
 - Citizens will be able to call in and sign up for speaking prior to meeting no later than 5pm at 214-670-5735. The deadline for signing up at the meetings in person will remain 5:55pm.
 - Commissioner Ratcliff stated he will be absent on July 28, 2011.
 - Commissioner Wood thanked Mr. McPhail for his work.
10. Adjournment
 - At 8:52 pm the meeting adjourned.



CHAIR



COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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