

**REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DALLAS CITY HALL, ROOM 6ES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2011**

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Ruth Morgan, Chair
Billy Ratcliff, Vice Chair
Hollis Brashear
Domingo Garcia
Gary Griffith
Donna Halstead
Mary Hasan
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:

Mark Hord

Members of the Public Present: 14

Media Present: 2

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

1. Opening Remarks

- The Chair reminded the public and Redistricting Commissioners about the Rules of Courtesy. No private conversations or the use of cell phones by the Commission members or public are allowed while the Commission is in session.
- The Chair updated the commission on the number of plan submissions: 15 city wide plans have been submitted to the Commission. All plan presentations will be completed by the end of the next meeting on August 4, 2011. One plan has been withdrawn; one commissioner plan and one public plan were postponed indefinitely and can be returned to inventory if a motion is made and approved by a majority of the Commission. Eight partial maps have been submitted. The Commission received a matrix containing all public testimony received at the public hearings. The Commission receives on a weekly basis all public testimony that has been

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received by City Staff via fax, email, or by mail. Also, the Commission receives a media packet on a weekly basis that keeps them informed of any public comments that have been made in the media.

- To clear misconceptions about plans submitted by City Council members, Chair Morgan stated that no law prevents City Council members from submitting a redistricting plan or testimony to the Redistricting Commission. The Dallas City Charter provision regarding redistricting only contains two restrictions regarding City Council members. First, a City Council member cannot be appointed as a member of the Redistricting Commission. Second, a member of the Redistricting Commission cannot be a candidate for City Council during the next general election in 2013.

2. Approval of July 28, 2011 Minutes

- Motion: Commissioner Wood moved to approve minutes for July 28, 2011
- Seconded: Commissioner Halstead
Commissioner Mays provided a typographical correction on the third to last line of first page to be corrected.

○ Ayes: 11

Nays: 0

Motion to approve the Minutes as corrected Passed: unanimously
(Commissioner Hasan, Commissioner Hord, Commissioner Love, and Commissioner Lozano were not present at the vote).

Commissioner Jones requested a question of personal privilege which the Chair permitted to allow Commissioner Jones to provide an explanation of the reason she asked a presenter about his education is that she frequently asks young people under the age of 25 about their school affiliation to determine if they are participating as a part of a college course or program.

3. Staff Updates

- Project Manager Tolliver reviewed the updated Redistricting Work Plan Timeline with the Redistricting Commission.
- Project Manager Tolliver informed Commissioners that six Budget Town Hall meetings are scheduled for Thursday August 18, and she suggested moving the Redistricting Public Forum to Saturday, August 20. City Staff is trying to schedule the public form in the City Council chambers, although an alternative location is the auditorium at the Central Library.
- The Project Manager asked Commissioners to bring all copies of maps previously provided to them by City Staff to their meeting on August 4.
- Motion: Commissioner Loza moved to have the public forum changed to Saturday August 20, 2011 at 2:00 pm as noted on the Redistricting Work Timeline.
- Seconded: Commissioner Garcia
 - Ayes: 14

Nays: 0

Motion Passed: unanimously (Commissioner Hord was not present at the vote).

4. Commissioner Plan or Partial Plan Submission Presentation
 - a) cPlan01 Submission Summary
 - Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary of cPlan01. cPlan01 does not have 14 contiguous districts, the plan's total range of population deviation is 51.99% which is outside of the acceptable range. The plan includes 7 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts.
 - b) cPlan01 Submission Presentation (Testimony)
 - Commissioner Domingo Garcia presented cPlan01. This map was designed to create 5 Hispanic opportunity districts. Commissioner Garcia is not asking for any action to be taken on this map as it is only for demonstrative purposes to show that 5 Hispanic districts with Hispanic VAP in excess of 50% can be created. The Hispanic total population percentage in District 1 is 74%, District 2 is 65%, District 3 is 66%, District 5 is 70%, and District 6 is 68% total population. All are at ideal population as defined in the Redistricting guidelines. This map contains 5 Hispanic opportunity districts that are over 65% in total population and over 50% in voting age population. He has submitted a plan that will be presented on Thursday that shows a city wide map using this strategy.
 - c) cPlan01 Questions
 - A question and answer session among the Commissioners followed.
 - d) cPlan01 Public Comment
 - None
 - e) cPlan05 Submission Summary
 - Demographer Lindsay Kramer provided a summary of cPlan05. The plan has a total population deviation of 9.33%. District 8 had the highest population with a deviation percentage of 4.12%, while District 4 had the lowest population with a deviation percentage of 5.21%. cPlan05 has 7 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts. District 1 is less compact than the existing district, while Districts 9, 12, and 13 are about the same in terms of compactness. District 4 had the largest increase in its compactness score.
 - f) cPlan05 Submission Presentation
 - Commissioner Hollis Brashear presented cPlan05. It was put together in a hurried manner in order to represent the districts in the south. This map is a beginning, and he invites all Commissioners to contribute.

There are three African-American, four Hispanic, and two minority coalition districts. One of the coalition districts is almost evenly divided between African-American and Hispanics. District 5 is almost the same as its current incarnation, although it does not have the Pleasant Grove area. District 8 will no longer have the Kleberg-Riley area. District 4 has a voting age population that is slightly more Hispanic, but should not have included Kessler or Stevens Park, as these areas should be in District 3. District 7 includes the historically black areas of South Dallas. District 7 includes Fair Park, the Texas Horse Park and future parts of the Trinity River development. District 1 is in Far East Dallas. District 3 is 63% Hispanic, and puts all of West Dallas in one district as requested at the public hearings. District 14 is the new Pleasant Grove district. District 2 combines Uptown and Near East Dallas into one district. District 9 includes East and West White Rock Lake in a majority Anglo district that also contains The Village Apartment complex. District 10 is a minority coalition district. District 11 and 12 are drawn as Commissioners Hord and Wood had agreed at the time the plan was submitted, but that has now changed. District 13 contains all of Vickery Meadows as requested by Commissioner Jones.

g) cPlan05 Questions

- A question and answer session among the Commissioners followed.

h) cPlan05 Public Comment

- Asst. City Attorney Barbra McAninch read the Rules for Speaking
- Pat Gurson resides at 927 Medalist Dr. in District 5. Ms. Gurson is a Precinct Chairman and involved in the community. She supports the more compact districts for each of the areas that were discussed. Ms. Gurson noted that it is unfair for the district to be spread out from one side of the city to the other, and asked that the commission support pPlan05.
- Jerry Gurson resides at 927 Medalist Dr. in District 5. Mr. Gurson is President of Woodland Canyon Neighborhood Association. cPlan05 corrects some of the issues with the current City Council map. The plan allows for a representative of the area to have a better feel for the cohesiveness and have a good focal point to serve the city and the district in a fair way.
- Lois Lilly resides at 2215 Sea Island Dr. in District 5 since 1975. cPlan05 is the best at this time as she has been reviewing all of the maps on the computers. She noted that all of the districts in Commissioner Brashear's plan have an economic engine to work with, which is why she supports Mr. Brashear's plan.
- Debra Hicks resides at 4834 Sedalia St. in District 5. Ms. Hicks reviewed the cPlan05 and liked the proposed plan. The Dallas VA Center and Dallas Audubon Center have created jobs and recreation in

the district. She likes cPlan05 and feels with some tweaking and a little rethinking it can be a good plan. Upon questioning by the Commission, she said that the tweaks are in the Interstate 45 area.

- Phil Foster resides at 1902 Mentor Ave. in District 5. Mr. Foster is Chairperson of Adela Crime Watch, and was appointed to the Dallas Police Review Board. He would like cPlan05 to be adopted by the Commission. Mr. Foster has lived in the area since 1966, and feels that cPlan05 keeps the neighborhoods together. He would like to see the core assets that have been developed over the last 4 years stay together, as community development is starting to take place in District 5.
- Sandra Crenshaw resides at 1403 Quartet Dr. in District 8. She commended Council Member Hill for properly using her commission appointee to present her views to the Commission. She notes that cPlan05 puts the Singing Hills historical area together as one neighborhood. However, she would like to see the dense population in District 8 and 5. She noted that the Dart line along Lancaster Ave go to Route 12, that Paul Quinn College in not in District 8 but in District 5. She considers cPlan05's District 10 is example of cracking. She has asked the Department of Justice to investigate whether there is discriminatory intended in using school attendance zones in drawing districts. She recommends that Vickery Meadows be placed in District 10. Ms. Crenshaw asked the Chair to continue to limit debate to question under consideration, before noting that asking members of the public whether they have a financial interest at stake is appropriate when it is not ask of Redistricting Commission members. The configuration of the districts must be neutral as to incumbents.

- i) cPlan13 Submission Summary
- j) cPlan 13 Submission Presentation (Testimony)
- k) cPlan13 Questions
- l) cPlan13 Public Comment
 - cPlan13 was rescheduled for the Thursday, August 4th Redistricting Commission Meeting

5. Commission Discussion Consideration

- a) cPlan01 (none)
- b) cPlan05 (none)
- c) cPlan13 (none)

6. Commission Discussion and Consideration on Previous Commission Directed Modified Plans

- a) Presentation

Commissioner Wood presented a modification of wPlan51 on behalf of the Beikmans who were unable to attend the meeting. The boundary between District 11 and 12 has been changed to the Dallas County Line and follows

White Rock Creek. This makes the District appear less offensive. Under this revised map, the population of District 12 is 88,633 which is a deviation of 3,075 from the ideal population, and is a percentage deviation of 3.59%. The total Hispanic population percentage is 16.97%, African-American is 9.18%, and White is 67.69%. The voting age population is similar to the general population, as the Hispanic percentage is 14.86%, African-American is 8.64%, and White is 70.33%.

b) Public Comment

- None

c) Commission Discussion and Consideration

- Motion: Commissioner Wood moved to return pPlan43 back to inventory
 - Motion lacked a second and failed .

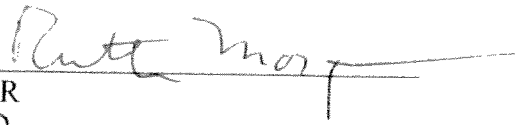
7. Public Speakers

- Jamie Walk resides at 6327 Brook Lake Dr. in District 12. Mr. Walk supports wPlan51 as revised, and he represents the Preston Wood Homeowner Association. He currently lives towards the bottom of District 12 and would like to remain in District 12. District 12 has a number of things in common with this area, including the Preston Wood Trail, the proposed Cotton Belt Dart rail line, and Richardson and Plano school districts.
- Bill Betzen resides at 6717 Cliffwood in District 8. He provided the Commission with a document that shows the data for the 13 individual and 1 group plan presented to the Commission. Looking at this data, it appears that it is not easy to find 3 Black and 5 Hispanic districts, as only 3 people out of the 14 have done that. The one thing that he has done with his revised wPlan03 was reduce the range of deviation to 8.88%, and ended up with 5 Hispanic Districts with an average voting age population percentage of 62.39%, and 3 African-American districts with the average voting age population percentage of 62.69%. He said that the Commission should pay attention to this data, and should remember that districts need to remain compact.


7. Additional Questions/Final Remarks

- Commissioner Brashear provided a personal privilege response to written testimony that was sent to Commission. The testimony stated that he told a speaker that was criticizing the Chair of the Redistricting Commission that he was not interested in the past. This occurred at the Central Library on May 21, 2011 during a public hearing, when a resident of the City of Dallas attacked the credibility and integrity of the Chair and the Commissioners. Commissioner Brashear stated that the testimony is not true and that his statements were made in response to the speaker's attacks on the Chair and not that he was not interested in the past.

9. Adjournment
- At 7:23 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.