

Commission on Redistricting

Wednesday October 13, 2021

Start Time: 5:11 pm

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Commission Members

Mariana Cordier (Chair)
Arthur Edmunds (Vice-Chair)
Imad Aldean Ahmad
Laura Ard
Keshia Desir
Valerie Ervin
Jason Makstein
Nilmini Rubin
Samuel Statland
David Stein
Bruce Goldensohn

Council Staff

Jeff Zyontz
Pamela Dunn

Planning Staff

Corinne Blackford
Erik Westbrook

The meeting began at 5:11 pm.

It opened with a greeting to the Commission by Chair Cordier.

Next a discussion of the upcoming meeting dates and process took place. The Chair clarified upcoming meeting dates and content of those meetings. After reviewing the County Charter again, the Chair informed the Commission that the Commission would be submitting only one map to the Council and that the October 20th meeting is needed to finalize a single map submission, therefore it cannot be used to hold a public hearing. The Chair noted that October 27th is not available for the Commission to hold a public hearing, thus to stay on track for delivery of a plan and map to the Council in a timely manner, the October 20th date will need to be used to vote on a final map, with the Commission meeting again on November 3rd to vote to transmit a Redistricting Plan and Report to the County Council. The County Council is required to hold a public hearing on the plan for redistricting.

Cmr. Goldensohn made a motion to vote on whether the Commission holds a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Cmr. Edmunds. After further discussion on the topic a vote was held to not hold a public hearing. Six in favor (Cmrs. Stein, Ervin, Goldensohn, Ard, Cordier, and Edmunds), four oppose (Desir, Ahmad, Nilmini, and Statland), and one abstention (Makstein).

Cmr. Statland raised a concern that the process to not hold a public hearing violates Section 104 of the County Charter. He made motion to recognize this thus negating the prior vote. The Chair requested comment on this by Mr. Zyontz, retired Legislative Attorney for the County Council. Mr. Zyontz stated he does not see any violation of Section 104 of the Charter. Mr. Statland reiterated his view. There was no second to the motion.

Next, the Chair requested approval of the meeting minutes. The September 23rd meeting minutes were approved without amendment.

The Commission then began a discussion of the maps. The Chair called on each map submitter in the order in which they were submitted. The first map was presented by Cmr. Stein (submitted by Cmrs. Stein, Ervin, Ard, and Desir). The second map was presented by Cmr. Makstein (seconded by Cmr. Rubin). And the third and final map was presented by Cmr. Ahmad (submitted by Cmrs. Ahmad and Statland). There was some confusion regarding which map being displayed was the final version of Map #3. It was determined, after the meeting, that the large, printed map which was displayed on the screen was the correct version.

Each map presenter was given ten minutes for presentation, followed by 15 minutes for discussion.

The Chair thanked all presenters and reiterated that on October 20th the Commission will convene to vote on a final map for submission to the Council. The Commission will then have two weeks to prepare the report and accompanying map for transmittal to the Council.

The meeting closed at 6:49pm.