

Redistricting Group Minutes

February 1, 2012 - 4:45 p.m.
Room 319 City Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Redistricting Group Members Present: Clegg (Chair), Bad Heart Bull, Brown, Cole, Connell, Dolan, Ferrara, Garcia, Heinle, Johnson, Kozak, Lickness, Massey, Metge, Peltola, Rubenstein, Schwarzkopf, Thaden, Unni

Redistricting Group Members Absent: Cohen, Gerdes, Lazarus, Richardson, Sandberg

Also Present: Carol Bachun, Assistant City Attorney

1. Roll Call

Chair Clegg called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Roll call was taken.

2. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was amended by unanimous consent to move the review of sample maps to the last item on the agenda.

3. Approve minutes of December 1, 2011

Ferrara moved approval of the minutes of December 1, 2011. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Bad Heart Bull, Cohen, Gerdes, Lazarus, Richardson, Sandberg.

4. Receive and file all public comments received and enter them into the official record

Schwarzkopf moved to receive and file all public comments received since the December 1, 2011 meeting. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Bad Heart Bull, Cohen, Gerdes, Lazarus, Richardson, Sandberg.

5. Introduction of GIS Consultant

Garth Dietrich, GIS Consultant, introduced himself and stated that he had a formal business background but has worked with technology for over twenty years and had worked with similar GIS software. Ten years ago he worked with the Elections Department on the precinct boundaries.

7. Update on State Redistricting by Carol Bachun, Assistant City Attorney

Carol Bachun, Assistant City Attorney, provided an update on the state and federal redistricting litigation. There has been no change with the federal litigation. If the

Minnesota legislature does not complete their redistricting by the February 21 deadline, the Special Redistricting Panel will likely step in. Once the Congressional and Legislative lines are drawn, the Redistricting Group will have up to 60 days or April 3, whichever comes first, to complete redistricting wards. The City Council must also adopt precincts by the same deadline.

8. Public Hearing Working Committee Update

Jeanne Massey stated that the Working Committee met to consider issues important to the upcoming public hearings such as what educational materials would be helpful during the public input process. They produced a brochure which is now available, and a video will be produced on the redistricting process that will be available as a link on the redistricting website and possibly aired on Minneapolis Cable Television. Public hearings have been scheduled from 5 to 7 pm on February 29 at Webber Community Center (4400 Dupont Ave N) and March 1 at Hosmer Library (347 E 36th St).

Clegg stated that they will do their best to have the first draft map available three days prior to the public hearing, and if possible, seven days prior. Redistricting Group Rules provide that a quorum is not required at the public hearings because the Redistricting Group will not take any action at the hearings. They will listen and report back to the group.

6. Review Sample Map - Group Input to Create 1st Draft Map

The attached sample ward maps have been prepared as a learning tool for the Redistricting Group for discussion purposes only and do not represent an official position of the Redistricting Group. Draft and proposed final maps will be prepared by the Redistricting Group in accordance with the requirements of the Charter. Please check back regularly for the latest updates.

A demonstration of the mapping software was provided to the group.

Clegg suggested that the most efficient way to proceed would be to have the full Redistricting Group discuss and provide input on the sample maps, then at an open meeting of the Operations Committee, work could take place on the details of adjusting the ward lines using the input received from the full group. The Operations Committee would meet frequently and/or for lengthier meetings prior to each full Redistricting Group meeting. The public can attend the Operations Committee meetings with public commentary received similar to every meeting. However, the public will not be able to engage in debate while the Committee is drawing lines. The membership agreed with the outlined process, and Clegg stated that he would email a meeting schedule to members as soon as possible.

The group viewed the sample map prepared by the Operations Committee and discussed ward boundaries. The following topics and proposals were discussed for the Operations Committee to consider at their next meeting:

- Keep economic integrity intact in North Minneapolis
- Create an economic mix of businesses and housing stock
- Maintain economic opportunity in wards
- Recognize that there may be a problem with keeping whole neighborhoods intact and look instead at natural lines of demarcation (railroads, bridges, highways)
- Be aware of the impact of new ward lines possibly reducing minority representation in one ward while increasing it in another
- Consider having a community of interest represented by more than one Council member
- North Loop Neighborhood location - Ward 7 and/or Ward 5

Ward 5

- Ward 5 is currently the only ward in the city that is a minority-majority ward
- Hawthorne neighborhood identifies more with North Minneapolis

Ward 7

- The group requested the Operations Committee to prepare two maps of the downtown area: One with the downtown area in a single ward, and one with the downtown area divided between wards

Ward 3

- Ward 3 has more of a Southeast and University focus
- The Southeast Como area might be best represented in one ward
- The area surrounding the University is a community of interest
- The Bottineau and Sheridan neighborhoods have more in common with Logan Park and Holland neighborhoods
- Possibly moving the University area into Ward 3

Ward 2

- Add portions of Ventura Village, Downtown East, and Elliot Park neighborhoods to Ward 2

Metge and Massey requested that the Operations Committee review the map submitted by the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting.

Public Commentary

Abdulkadir Warsame, was present on behalf of the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting. He clarified that the letter sent to the Redistricting Group contained a list of key supporters, and two of those listed, the West Bank Community Coalition and the Cedar Riverside NRP, had been inadvertently listed as key supporters of the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting. Those organizations had not been contacted yet, and he apologized for the error. The Citizens Committee had submitted a proposed ward map that they felt created a minority-opportunity ward in Ward 2, as well as creating two other minority-opportunity inner-city wards and achieving fair redistricting throughout the

rest of the city. Mr. Warsame submitted the full text of his comments in writing, which are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Peggy Menshek
Council Committee Coordinator