

Redistricting Group Minutes

February 15, 2012 - 4:00 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, Lazarus, Lickness, Massey, Metge, Peltola, Rubenstein, Schwarzkopf, Thaden, Unni

Redistricting Group Members Absent: Cohen (excused), Gerdes, Richardson, Sandberg (excused)

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Roll call was taken.

2. Adopt Agenda

Lazarus moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Cole, Gerdes, Johnson, Kozak, Metge, Richardson, Sandberg, Unni.

3. Approve minutes of February 8, 2012

Heinle moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2012. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Cole, Gerdes, Johnson, Kozak, Metge, Richardson, Sandberg, Unni.

4. Chair's Report

No changes had been suggested for the proposed Park District map presented at the last meeting. It had been sent to Brian Rice, counsel for the Park Board, who would pass it on to the Park Commissioners. Formal comment on the proposed Park District map would come from the Park Board Commission at their next meeting.

The Charter requires the Redistricting Group to solicit neighborhood input, and members have been working to solicit input electronically and otherwise. A video was also created that has been linked to the redistricting website. A notice will be sent via both email and snail mail to everyone on the City's neighborhood organization contact list notifying them of the public hearings.

The first public hearings are scheduled for February 29 and March 1. A sign-up sheet was circulated. Clegg asked Redistricting Group members to attend at least one public hearing; both if possible.

5. Receive and file all public comments received since the February 8, 2012 Redistricting Group meeting and enter them into the official record

Heinle moved to receive and file all public comments received since the February 8, 2012 Redistricting Group meeting. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Gerdes, Richardson, Sandberg.

**6. Review Proposed Draft Maps:
Group input to update draft maps**

A new mapping tool was demonstrated that would be placed on the redistricting website so people could zoom in and out on areas of interest. Neighborhoods, streets, blocks, and houses will be visible by zooming in, as well as the statistics for each ward.

Clegg reviewed the latest iteration of the draft ward maps, dated February 15. The following topics and proposals were discussed:

- Border between Wards 1 and 3
- Border between Wards 5 and 7
- Border between Wards 8 and 9
- Placing a portion of the North Loop in Ward 5
- Keeping the North Loop together as one community of interest
- Retaining the current boundaries in the North Loop area
- Consideration of the Redistricting Principle to change current ward boundaries as little as possible
- Moving the boundary between Wards 8 and 9 to Chicago Avenue
- Whether two ward representatives are better than one in a corridor such as Chicago Avenue
- 35th to 38th along Chicago Avenue is developing into a community of interest of artists and there has been a resurgence to revitalize this area
- Trying not to split the Standish Ericsson neighborhood
- Splitting the Como neighborhood between Wards 2 and 3
- The latest draft splits the university neighborhoods among three different wards
- Possibility of moving the Wenonah neighborhood to Ward 12
- Dividing Wards 11 and 12 along 28th Ave

Public Commentary

Abdulkadir Warsame, representing the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting, thanked the Redistricting Group for their work so far and stated that the Citizens Committee appreciated the Redistricting Group's latest map but also liked the latest map submitted by Mr. Thorstenson since it was closer to what the Citizens for Fair Redistricting had proposed. They would prefer to see more of the East African/Somali population from Ward 2 included in Ward 6, particularly the Cedar Riverside area.

Vida Ditter, Bryn Mawr Neighborhood, suggested not changing ward boundaries in locations where there was no population in order to decrease the overall number of boundary changes.

Hazel Reinhardt, representing the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting, stated that she had been engaged by the East African community to help them think about redistricting. Regarding the Redistricting Group's Principle to change ward and park districts as little as possible, she stated that the characteristics of the city's population have changed quite a bit and urged the group to embrace that reality and consider the number of that population East African/Somali are now citizens of voting age, as well as the growing Hispanic population.

The group discussed whether the Operations Committee should meet again to make additional changes to the draft map, or whether to use the February 15 map, with the changes made during the meeting, as the draft map to solicit public comment at the first two public hearings.

Thaden moved approval of the ward maps, labeled Map 15.1, and the Park District Map for use as the draft maps to solicit public comment at the upcoming public hearings on February 29 and March 1. Seconded.

Ferrara spoke in opposition to the motion.

Garcia, Metge, Dolan, Rubenstein, Brown, Lickness, and Connell spoke in favor of the motion.

Thaden's motion to approve Ward Map 15.1 and the Park District Map for use as the draft maps to solicit public comment at the upcoming public hearings on February 29 and March 1 was adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cohen, Gerdes, Massey, Richardson, Sandberg.

The Operations Committee meeting scheduled for February 20, and the Redistricting Group meeting scheduled for February 21 were cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Peggy Menshek
Council Committee Coordinator