

# COUNCIL DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

October 7, 1998

The Council District Commission met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on October 7, 1998 at 5:32 p.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

Chairman Pat Langdon  
Wilford Andersen  
Lynda Bailey  
Teresa Brice-Heames  
Mary Jo Whalen

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Jim Davidson  
Keno Hawker

## STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Barris  
Jamie Brennen  
Steve Burg  
Jerry Dillehay  
Barbara Jones  
Jeff Martin  
Ellen Pence  
Tom Remes

## OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Brando  
Luule Brando  
Robbie Sherwood  
Mary Jo Vecchiarelli  
Marilynn Wennerstrom  
Marty Whalen  
Others

Chairman Langdon advised that Spanish interpretation for the meeting is available to any citizen upon request. No requests for Spanish translation were received.

1. Approval of minutes from the September 16, 1998 Commission meeting.

It was moved by Commission Member Bailey, seconded by Commission Member Whalen, that the minutes of September 16, 1998 be approved.

Carried unanimously.

2. Selection of Vice Chairman of District Commission.

Chairman Langdon noted the extensive meeting schedule anticipated during the upcoming months and requested the selection of a Vice Chairman in the event he is unable to attend meetings.

Commission Member Whalen nominated Commission Member Andersen as Vice Chairman.

It was moved by Commission Member Whalen, seconded by Commission Member Bailey, that Commission Member Andersen be appointed as Vice Chairman of the District Commission.

Carried unanimously.

3. Discuss and consider criteria for developing Council districts for Mesa.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin advised that at the Commission's previous meeting, Dr. Alan Heslop, consultant, presented the following list of suggested criteria to be utilized in establishing districts for Mesa: a) constitutional issues of equality and fairness, b) community of interest, c) access, recognition, and geography, d) citizen input, and e) population and growth. Mr. Martin reviewed and briefly explained each criterion.

Chairman Langdon outlined proposed minor revisions to the criteria, including a recommendation that constitutional issues of equality and fairness be further defined to state that districts should be drawn that are equal in population *to the extent possible and within the guidelines acceptable to the U.S. Department of Justice.*

It was moved by Commission Andersen, seconded by Commission Member Whalen, that the revised criteria be adopted and forwarded to the City Council for subsequent approval.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Martin stated that the districting consultants will be attending the October 15, 1998 Study Session, at which time the criteria will be presented for Council consideration. Mr. Martin said that he will advise the Commission of any modifications proposed by Council.

4. Discuss proposed schedule for the initial round of public hearings on districting.

Mr. Martin informed the Commission that citizen kits will be available beginning next week and that the initial public hearings have been scheduled for November, at which time the preliminary report and three alternative maps will be available. Mr. Martin stated that the districting consultants are scheduled to meet again with the City Council on November 5 at 7:30 a.m., followed that day by a Technical Forum at 5 p.m. (instruction for developing citizen kits) and the first public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Martin reported that the public hearing locations are subject to change but have tentatively been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at various schools throughout the City as follows:

- November 5 - Rhodes Junior High School
- November 9 - Emerson Elementary School
- November 12 - Lincoln Elementary School (previously scheduled at City Hall)
- November 17 - To be Determined
- November 18 - Mountain View High School

Mr. Martin noted difficulties in securing locations and encouraged recommendations from the Commission.

Commission Member Brice-Heames suggested that consideration be given to scheduling the Technical Forum on a date prior to the date of the first public hearing, or if not feasible, scheduling both meetings at the same location.

Brief discussion ensued concerning the purpose of the Technical Forum, length of time required (approximately one hour based on the consultants' previous experience), efforts to encourage attendance and alleviate traveling difficulties, and marketing strategies.

Commission Member Brice-Heames recommended that the Technical Forum be held during the last week in October to allow an opportunity for citizens' questions to be answered prior to the first public hearing. Commission Member Brice-Heames additionally suggested that the Forum be videotaped and televised on the City's cable channel.

Mr. Martin stated that he will contact the consultants to reschedule the Forum. Mr. Martin recommended that the Forum be held at the Council Chambers to enhance televising capabilities.

Commission Member Brice-Heames spoke in favor of holding the ten public hearings at ten different locations throughout the City in an effort to encourage greater participation. Commission Member Brice-Heames noted the significant population in the southeast Mesa area (e.g., Superstition Springs) and recommended that a site be selected south of Main Street and east of Mesa Drive, particularly given the fact that there is no representation on the Commission from this section of the City. Commission Member Brice-Heames encouraged staff to schedule a public hearing on a Saturday, or on a weekday during daytime, rather than evening, hours.

Mr. Martin suggested that alternative sites/times be considered for the second series of public hearings.

Commission Member Brice-Heames encouraged efforts to accommodate citizens and recommended that locations other than schools (e.g., malls, libraries) be considered.

Commission Member Bailey suggested that questions received during the initial series of public hearings be monitored so that the second series may be adjusted accordingly.

Commission Member Andersen spoke concerning the importance of the Forum and encouraged marketing efforts.

In response to a question from Commission Member Andersen, Mr. Martin stated that based on previous experience, the consultants anticipate receiving approximately 50 citizen kits. Mr. Martin urged individuals to submit more than one plan.

Commission Member Brice-Heames commented that the number of plans received may be predicated upon the number of kits made available. Commission Member Brice-Heames said that the State's General Election is scheduled for November 3 and suggested that the citizen kits be made available at the polling places on Election Day.

Chairman Langdon summarized the Committee's concurrence that the November 12 public hearing be held at Lincoln Elementary School rather than City Hall and that the Technical Forum be rescheduled for the last week in October. Chairman Langdon noted that instruction sheets for preparing maps will be provided with each citizen kit. Chairman Langdon expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts in scheduling the public hearings.

5. Hear a presentation on draft of direct mailing on districting that will be sent to all Mesa residents.

Assistant to the City Manager Ellen Pence advised that a draft news release and draft direct-mail brochure have been provided to the Commission. Ms. Pence stated that an attempt has been made to ensure that the information is user-friendly and easy to understand. Ms. Pence indicated that the direct-mail brochure will be distributed to residence, businesses, and organizations within the City prior to each series of public hearings.

Ms. Pence related plans to utilize a public relations firm to assist in the City's outreach to the Hispanic community. Ms. Pence noted that districting is a key component of the City's web site and that Internet information is available in Spanish.

Ms. Pence encouraged input from the Commission relative to marketing proposals.

Chairman Langdon urged the Commission and the public to participate in the districting process.

6. Scheduling of future Commission meetings and general information.

Mr. Martin stated that he will be contacting the districting consultants and will advise the Commission regarding the rescheduling of the Technical Forum.

7. Items from citizens present (three minutes per speaker).

Luule Brando, 923 South Seaton, spoke concerning increased activity/traffic in her neighborhood and encouraged the Commission to take new residents into consideration when developing district boundaries. Chairman Langdon stated that growth patterns will be incorporated when possible within federal constraints pertaining to census data and advised that redistricting will occur following the 2000 census.

Marilynn Wennerstrom, 1112 North Center, requested clarification pertaining to the recommendations from Commission Member Brice-Heames regarding the public hearings. Chairman Langdon advised that a site south of Main Street and east of Mesa Drive will be selected for the second series of hearings. Ms. Wennerstrom commented that 6:30 p.m. may be too early, particularly for citizens in the eastern portion of the City, and encouraged meeting times that will accommodate various lifestyles.

Bill Brando, 923 South Seaton, suggested guest appearances on Channel 11 to invite citizens to attend the public hearings and recommended that the proposed direct mailing advise individuals to view Channel 11.

Mr. Brando encouraged the selection of a site as headquarters for the Commission (e.g., the Community Center) where maps can be displayed and literature made available to interested citizens. Mr. Martin noted difficulties that may arise in securing a room at the Community Center but said that consideration has been given to designating space on the 8th floor of the Mesa City Plaza building. Mr. Martin stated that the selected site will be publicized.

Ms. Wennerstrom spoke again and expressed concern that the lack of parking space at the Mesa City Plaza building may be a deterrent. Ms. Wennerstrom commented that a location such as the Mesa Public Library would be more accessible.

Chairman Langdon thanked the speakers for their input.

8. Adjournment.

It was moved by Commission Member Whalen, seconded by Commission Member Bailey, that the meeting of the District Commission adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council Districting Commission of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 7th day of October 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1998

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK