



COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MINUTES

June 2, 2011

The Council Redistricting Commission of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on June 2, 2011 at 5:31 p.m.

COMMISSION PRESENT	COMMISSION ABSENT	COUNCIL PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
Brian Allen Scott Higginson Terry Hines Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo	Nancy Aposhian	Christopher Glover	Linda Crocker Alfred Smith Carla Wagner

1. Welcome by Chair Scott Higginson.

Chairman Higginson welcomed those present to the Redistricting Commission meeting and requested that Deputy City Attorney Alfred Smith provide the Commission with an update.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that approximately one hour ago staff was notified that the Consultant experienced a scheduling problem and will not be present for this meeting. He provided the Commission with options on how to proceed without the Consultant in attendance. He also advised that beginning next week Commission Member Allen will not be present for the next few Thursday meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding the meeting schedule for the month of June.

Commission Member Allen and Commission Member Villanueva-Saucedo both advised that they would have a conflict and would not be present if the meeting is rescheduled for June 9th.

Chairman Higginson stated that he believes that the Commission will require three meetings before the draft is ready to go to the Council. He requested that staff advise the Consultant to be available for the following meeting dates: June 16th, 23rd and 30th.

Chairman Higginson noted that at this time the meeting date of June 23 is tentative.

2. Current Events Summary on Redistricting Process.

There were no current events to summarize on the redistricting process.

Chairman Higginson stated that at the last meeting the Commission was advised of the laws regarding the redistricting process.

3. Hear a presentation, discuss and make recommendations on the marketing and public information program for the redistricting effort.

Executive Management Assistant to the City Manager Carla Wagner informed the Commission that Communication and Draft Plans were included in their packets. She stated that the plans outline ideas for community outreach, such as a fact sheet, an online mapping tool and a citizen kit. She advised that once the Commission develops and recommends draft plans to the City Council the public outreach process will begin. She said that the public is encouraged to participate online or by obtaining a paper citizens' kit. In addition, she said the public is invited to attend the public hearings that will begin in August and requested that at least one of the Commission Members be present at each hearing.

In response to a question from Commission Member Villanueva-Saucedo, Ms. Wagner explained that the Consultant recommended that the public hearing in District 4 be set on a Saturday for broader attendance purposes.

Executive Management Assistant Melissa Jones explained that District 4 is an area where there is a concern for retrogression. She advised that it was suggested that the public hearing in District 4 be the last public hearing held in order to provide more time to "get the word out" to the public. She stated that it is hoped that there will be a greater turnout from the public if the meeting is held on a Saturday. She said that the school has been contacted to determine if any sports practices will be held on Saturday so that they can coordinate the public hearing to attract parents that might be present to pick up their children.

Commission Member Villanueva-Saucedo expressed her concern in regards to holding the public hearing on a Saturday. She stated that people tend to have other things planned for the weekends.

Ms. Wagner reported that the redistricting website will be up and running soon. She said that currently there is a link available on the City's home page and additional information will be added to the website in the upcoming weeks.

Chairman Higginson requested that the website and the citizen kits contain an area for "frequently asked questions" that will explain terms such as "retrogression."

In response to a question from Commission Member Allen, Ms. Wagner explained that three draft plans will be presented to the Council at the July 7th meeting and no action will be taken at that time. She said the draft plans will be presented during a Study Session that will be held in the evening on July 7th. She advised that it is anticipated that the Consultant along with the Chair will conduct the majority of the presentation to Council. She added that if Commission Members are available their presence will be welcomed at the meeting.

Chairman Higginson remarked that the location of some of the Councilmember's homes is creating a handicap.

Commission Member Villanueva-Saucedo commented that she was pleased with how much of the area each district was able to retain.

Discussion ensued regarding whether a spokesperson should be appointed to answer questions from the media or public or just allow members to speak on their own behalf.

Mr. Smith advised that there is a provision in the Open Meeting Law that allows Commission Members to speak to the media or public. He explained that members cannot propose any action or indicate that they will be taking any action. He said members are allowed to give a current summary on what the Commission is doing, what the plan is and provide future meeting dates.

Commission Member Villanueva-Saucedo stated that she did not feel the need to designate a spokesperson as it could be beneficial to some individuals to obtain different perspectives from other Commission Members. She said if a Commission Member was uncomfortable speaking to the media they could refer them to another member.

The Commission concurred that each member can speak for themselves if contacted by the media or public.

4. Discuss and make recommendations on strategies and approached dealing with the redistricting process.

(Due to the Consultant's scheduling conflict this item was continued to June 16th.)

5. Hear a presentation, discuss and make recommendations on draft redistricting plans.

(Due to the Consultant's scheduling conflict this item was continued to June 16th.)

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Redistricting Commission Meeting – Thursday, June 16, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

Redistricting Commission Meeting (tentative) – Thursday, June 23, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

Redistricting Commission Meeting –Thursday, June 30, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

7. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Council Redistricting Commission adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Council Redistricting Commission of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 2nd day of June, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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