

COUNCIL DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

August 1, 2001

The Council District Commission of the City of Mesa met in the upper level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on August 1, 2001 at 5:30 p.m.

COMMISSION PRESENT

Pat Langdon, Chairman
Jim Driskill
Dwayne Priester
Marti Soza
Alice Swinehart

COMMISSION ABSENT

None

COUNCIL PRESENT

Jim Davidson
Dennis Kavanaugh

Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Convene an Executive Session.

Chairman Langdon stated that the members of the Commission have determined that an Executive Session is not warranted at this time.

2. Approval of minutes from the July 5, 2001 Council District Commission meeting and acknowledgement of the minutes of the second round of public hearings on redistricting.

It was moved by Commission Member Driskill, seconded by Commission Member Soza, that the minutes from the July 5, 2001 Council District Commission meeting be approved and that the minutes from the July 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2001 public hearings be acknowledged.

Carried unanimously.

3. Hear, discuss and consider Final Recommended Plan for the redistricting of City Council districts.

Dr. Alan Heslop and Dr. Florence Adams of National Demographics Corporation (NDC) addressed the Commission relative to this agenda item.

Dr. Heslop provided a brief historical chronology of the redistricting process to date and commented that the Final Recommended Plan reflects the Commission's criteria, the input of

citizens and is recommended for approval. Dr. Heslop also commended the Commission Members and City staff for their efforts.

Dr. Adams reviewed the map and summary statistics for the Final Recommended Plan. Dr. Adams reported that although the Recommended Plan was generally supported, concerns were raised regarding: a) the division of an historic neighborhood between Districts 1 and 4; b) the lack of community between the western and eastern portions of District 1; c) the need to respect the Williams Gateway influence area by keeping it intact within one district, and d) the desirability of raising the negative deviation in District 6 and having negative deviations in both Districts 5 and 6. Dr. Adams stated the opinion that the Final Recommended Plan addresses the above-mentioned concerns while keeping District 4 above the benchmark for maintaining the Hispanic population.

Dr. Adams advised that the Final Recommended Plan: a) moves Evergreen Historic District entirely into District 4; b) moves the boundary line between District 1 and 5 to Lindsay Road and Val Vista Drive instead of Greenfield Road; c) sets the boundary line between Districts 5 and 6 east of Power Road at Main Street, and d) provides negative deviations in Districts 5 and 6 (the main growth areas), while providing significant positive deviations in Districts 1, 2 and 3 (the non-growth areas). Dr. Adams emphasized that the overall Hispanic percentage in the Plan is 47.84 percent and the voting age Hispanic population percentage is 43.67 percent, slightly exceeding the benchmarks of 47.64 percent and 43.66 percent respectively.

Dr. Adams outlined the district deviations as follows: District 1, 1.98%; District 2, 4.07%; District 3, 2.02%; District 4, -4.72%; District 5, -0.40%, and District 6, -2.94%.

Dr. Adams advised the Commission that she detected an error on the District 1 map which accompanies the Final Recommended Plan. Dr. Adams explained that a street which is currently designated as 8th Place must be corrected to reflect 9th Place. Dr. Adams stressed that such modification will be completed prior to the Commission's August 2, 2001 presentation to the City Council.

Dr. Heslop stated that at the request of Mayor Hawker, NDC performed various statistical projections relative to Mesa's population in the year 2010. Dr. Heslop advised that in ten years, the City's population will reach approximately 540,000 and that more than 50% of Mesa's residents will reside in Districts 5 and 6.

In response to a question from Chairman Langdon, Dr. Adams assured the Commission that the corrections to the District 1 map should not impede the redistricting process, but urged the Commission to consult with its attorney regarding this matter.

Don Peters, an attorney representing the Council District Commission, stated the opinion that if the modifications are completed as outlined by Dr. Adams, that he would have no reservations with the Commission's approval of the Final Recommended Plan.

Chairman Langdon stated that a resolution has been prepared for consideration by the Commission recommending approval of the initial Councilmember district boundaries as defined in the consultant's Final Recommended Plan.

It was moved by Commission Member Swinehart, seconded by Commission Member Priester, that a resolution be adopted recommending to the City Council the establishment of the initial Councilmember district boundaries as defined in the Final Recommended Plan and that the necessary changes be implemented on the District 1 map as previously outlined.

Carried unanimously.

4. General information.

Special Assistant to the City Manager Jenny Sheppard stated that the Commission's recommendation will be presented to Council at the August 2, 2001 Study Session and that the consultants will be available to respond to questions. Ms. Sheppard encouraged the Commission Members to attend the meeting.

Ms. Sheppard noted that it is staff's intent to include on the agenda for the August 6, 2001 Regular Council Meeting a resolution approving the Commission's recommendation.

5. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

6. Adjourn.

Chairman Langdon expressed appreciation to the Commission and the consultants for their efforts and to the citizens for their participation in the districting process.

It was moved by Commission Member Driskill, seconded by Commission Member Swinehart, that the meeting of the Council District Commission adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the District Commission Meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 1st day of August 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK