

# COUNCIL DISTRICTING COMMISSION MINUTES

August 25, 1998

The Council Districting Commission met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on August 25, 1998 at 5:30 p.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

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

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Jim Davidson  
John Giles

## STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Barris  
Jamie Brennen  
Steve Burg  
Barbara Jones  
Jeff Martin  
Ellen Pence  
Andrea Rasizer  
Tom Remes

## OTHERS PRESENT

Phil Austin  
Bill Brando  
Luule Brando  
Joe Guinn  
David Molina  
Marilynn Wennerstrom

### 1. Welcome by Mayor Brown.

Vice Mayor Giles advised that Mayor Brown is unable to attend the meeting but noted the Mayor's interest in the Commission and the process of developing district boundaries. Vice Mayor Giles extended Mayor Brown's appreciation for the willingness of the members to serve on the Commission.

Vice Mayor Giles asked that the members of the Commission introduce themselves. Vice Mayor Giles introduced staff present at the meeting.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin stated that staff will be available to assist the Commission and will serve as a liaison with the districting consultant.

### 2. Select a Chairman for the Commission.

Vice Mayor Giles requested nominations for Chairman of the Commission.

Commission Member Whalen nominated Commission Member Langdon.

It was moved by Commission Member Whalen, seconded by Commission Member Bailey, that Commission Member Langdon be appointed as Chairman.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Langdon expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Chairman.

3. Hear an update on the process for selecting a consultant to assist the Commission in the development of district boundaries.

Mr. Martin informed the Commission that the City has received three responses to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to assist in the development of district boundaries. Mr. Martin indicated that the responses have been reviewed informally but stated the intent to establish a five-member Committee (consisting of two Commission Members, two Councilmembers, and one staff person) to formally review the proposals and either: a) present a recommendation to Council or b) present a recommendation to the Commission, who in turn would present a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Martin spoke in favor of scheduling a meeting of the Committee next week to enable the consultant to begin work by September 21, 1998.

4. Selection of members of Commission to participate on interview panel for selecting a consultant to assist the Commission.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the interview process, the involvement of City Councilmembers as participants, and the feasibility of obtaining input from all Commission Members regarding the selection of a consultant. Commission Members suggested that copies of the three RFP responses (considered confidential material) be provided to all Commission Members, who may in turn provide input.

Commission Members Brice-Heames and Bailey volunteered to participate on the interview panel.

It was moved by Commission Member Whalen, seconded by Commission Member Andersen, that Commission Members Brice-Heames and Bailey participate on the interview panel for selecting a consultant to assist the Commission.

Carried unanimously.

5. Hear on update on proposed schedule for consultants to complete work products.

Mr. Martin highlighted time frames for completion of work products, noting an anticipated deadline of January 1999 to submit a recommendation to the Department of Justice. Mr. Martin stated that the Department of Justice has 60 days to respond and that the proposed schedule will allow approximately one year for candidates for the Year 2000 elections to become familiar with the districts.

Mr. Martin reviewed critical dates within the schedule and provisions for extensive public input. Mr. Martin advised that all three RFP respondents have indicated an ability to meet the proposed schedule. Mr. Martin added that assistance was obtained from other communities in preparing the schedule.

In response to questions from Commission Members, Mr. Martin clarified the intent to conduct five public hearings by November 20, 1998 to consider three initial alternative plans (to initiate public input) and an additional five public hearings by December 23 to consider a recommended plan and two alternatives. Mr. Martin stated that citizen kits will be made available to the public.

The Commission and staff spoke concerning the importance of the availability of citizen kits as early as possible and the possibility of designating Members to represent the Commission at various public hearings.

6. Hear a presentation on the marketing and public information program on the districting effort.

Assistant to the City Manager Ellen Pence outlined a marketing and public information work program relative to the districting effort. Ms. Pence noted an emphasis on developing a comprehensive plan (proactive, accurate, and responsive) designed to inform the public and encourage input. Ms. Pence advised that materials will be provided in both English and Spanish.

Ms. Pence reviewed components of the work program, including a fact sheet (available via the Internet on the City's web site under the selection "What's New"), meeting schedule updates (also available on the City's web site), citizen kits, news releases, editorial board interviews, printed articles, electronic media, and direct mail. Ms. Pence encouraged additional suggestions from the Commission.

Discussion ensued concerning the possibility of providing citizen kits via the Internet, an anticipated Speakers Bureau, and communication between the media and Commission Members. Following brief comments, Chairman Langdon stated that it is the consensus of the Commission that Members may communicate with the media, speaking on behalf of themselves.

7. Scheduling of future meetings and general information.

The Commission and staff spoke regarding the anticipated Committee meeting to recommend the selection of a consultant to assist in developing district boundaries.

It was moved by Commission Member Whalen, seconded by Commission Member Andersen, that the Committee be authorized to present a recommendation to Council.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Martin stated that following the selection of a consultant by Council, he will work with the consultant and Chairman Langdon to schedule another meeting of the Commission at the end of September. (Commission Members indicated a preference that meetings be held at 5:30 p.m. on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays.)

8. Adjournment.

It was moved by Commission Member Whalen, seconded by Commission Member Bailey, that the meeting of the Council Districting Commission adjourn at 6:38 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 25th day of August 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