

COUNCIL DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

May 16, 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 May 16, 2001 at 5:35 p.m.

COMMISSION PRESENT

Pat Langdon, Chairman
Jim Driskill
Marti Soza
Alice Swinehart

COMMISSION ABSENT

Dwayne Priester

COUNCIL PRESENT

None

(Agenda items were discussed out of order, but for purposes of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.)

Chairman Langdon excused Commission Member Priester from the meeting.

1. Convene an Executive Session.

An executive session was not convened.

2. Executive Session.

An executive session was not convened.

3. Adjourn Executive Session.

An executive session was not convened.

4. Reconvene Council District Commission Meeting.

Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

5. Approval of minutes from the April 12, 2001 Commission Meeting.

It was moved by Commission Member Swinehart, seconded by Commission Member Driskill, that the minutes of the April 12, 2001 Council District Commission be approved.

Chairman Langdon declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Hear, discuss and consider Preliminary Report and Draft Plans for the redistricting of City Council districts. The Commission may take action by approval of the Preliminary Report and Draft Plans.

Dr. Alan Heslop of National Demographics Corporation (NDC) addressed the Commission and provided an overview of the *Preliminary Report to the City of Mesa Council Districting Commission on the Redistricting Process* that was provided to the Commission Members. Dr. Heslop commented on Chapter 1 (Mesa History, Growth, Geography and Demography) and said that this chapter identifies significant details regarding the City of Mesa in a simplified format. He discussed Chapter 2 (The Public Participation Process), stressed the importance of public participation in the redistricting process, and noted that this chapter provides information regarding citizen kits and the redistricting process timeline, including scheduled hearings and meetings.

Dr. Heslop discussed Chapter 3 (Redistricting Tasks and NDC's Approach) and commented on the tasks performed by NDC throughout the process and the maps, databases, retrieval system and user materials provided by NDC to facilitate the process. He said that NDC's approach to the redistricting process is explained in this Chapter including the evaluation of all suggestions, the development of conceptual options, explanation of choices, use of graphics, scheduling, openness to the media, openness to minorities and uniform treatment of all participants. Dr. Heslop reported that Chapter 4 contains the criteria approved by the Commission in priority rank order and identified the various maps and data contained in Chapter 5.

Dr. Heslop informed the Commission members that the preliminary report can be revised as they deem necessary.

Dr. Florence Adams of NDC addressed the Commission and referred to a sample *Citizen Redistricting Kit* and three Draft Plans/Concepts that were provided to the Commission members. She noted that the draft concepts will become part of the citizen kits. Ms. Adams referred to numerous maps that will be included in the citizen kits, including: 1) Total Population Counts; 2) Hispanic Population Counts; 3) Voting Age Population Counts; 4) Hispanic Voting Age Counts; 5) a plain blank map (for use by citizens to develop concepts); and 6) the various thematic maps (showing the location of minorities throughout Mesa by percentages) in the preliminary report.

Dr. Adams referred to the maps provided with the three Draft Plans/Concepts (A, B and C) and explained that the green lines delineate proposed district boundaries and the black lines delineate existing district boundaries. She noted that emphasis was placed on drawing straight lines where possible in response to input from City Councilmembers, staff and Commission members. She added that spreadsheets (containing population data and percentages) are also provided with each of the three concepts.

Dr. Adams discussed the specific boundary adjustments in Concept A, which include movement of District 3 slightly east and north; considerable movement of District 1 east; movement of District 2 east; and movement of District 5 (into District 6) south to Southern Avenue. She noted that District 4 has the highest percentage of Hispanic population at 46.15%.

Dr. Adams commented on the boundary adjustments in Concept B which include movement of District 3 east and north in a different manner than Concept A in order to add population; straightening of the lines in District 4 and movement of District 4 into District 6, resulting in a reduction of the Hispanic population in District 4 to 43.96%; movement of District 1 into District 2 and also into District 4; and movement of District 5 into District 6.

Discussion ensued regarding deviations of Districts 5 and 6 in Concepts A and B; the fact that District 6 sustained the highest growth since the previous districting process; and that due to larger lot sizes, District 5's population is less dense than District 6.

In response to a question from Commission Member Soza, Dr. Adams confirmed that the three incumbent Councilmembers in Districts 1, 2 and 3 remain located in their respective districts in all of the draft plans.

Dr. Adams discussed the boundary adjustments in Concept C including movement of District 4 slightly into District 3, straightening the line between 3 and 4; movement of District 3 north; movement of District 1 significantly east; and significant configuration change of District 5. She stated that the most significant change in Concept C is the movement of District 2 to the southern border of the City and she noted that the Hispanic population of District 4 is 46.24%.

Discussion ensued regarding the Hispanic population of District 4 in the three concept plans.

In response to concerns voiced by Chairman Langdon regarding the population deviations of Concepts B and C, Dr. Adams explained that the deviations are greater than A due to NDC's efforts to incorporate straight boundary lines in B and C.

Dr. Adams commented on the computer program used by NDC to develop boundary lines and corresponding population data, and said that citizens need only submit a concept/rough idea and NDC will utilize their computer program to quickly determine population data. She added that citizens can resubmit their concept for analysis as many times as they wish.

It was moved by Commission Member Soza, seconded by Commission Member Driskill that the Preliminary Report and Draft Plans for the redistricting of City Council districts be approved as submitted.

Chairman Langdon declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

7. Scheduling of future meetings and general information.

Special Assistant to the City Manager Jenny Sheppard commented on the format for the redistricting presentation to the City Council on May 17, 2001 and suggested that Chairman Langdon introduce any members of the Commission that are present and provide a brief overview of the redistricting process to date. She noted that Dr. Heslop and Dr. Adams will subsequently provide a summary of the criteria, preliminary report and draft plans.

Discussion ensued regarding rescheduling of the Wednesday, July 11, 2001 Commission meeting due to the inability of several Commission members to attend the meeting; the availability of members regarding alternate dates of July 5, 2001 and July 6, 2001; the possibility of including June 29, 2001 as an alternate date; and the necessity of obtaining a quorum in order to conduct the meeting.

Chairman Langdon instructed Ms. Sheppard to independently contact each member of the Commission regarding their availability during this period for determination of a meeting date that will ensure the presence of a quorum.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Council District Commission meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Council District Commission Meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 16th day of May 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2001.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK