



DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING
January 26, 2022
4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Col. Bob Burns
D. Michiel R. Noe - absent
Christopher Villa
Joshua Fematt - absent
Martin Bartlett
Daniel Anchondo - absent
Isabel Carrillo – arrived 4:40
Cynthia Renteria
Gilbert Esparza III

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

NONE

City Staff:

*Karina Brasgalla, Executive Secretary, Assistant Director Economic and International Development;
Kevin Smith, Planning and Inspections Assistant Director; Russell Abeln, Assistant City Attorney, City
Attorney's Office*

I. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – PUBLIC COMMENT

Call to the Public will begin at 5:00 p.m. Members of the public will be allowed 5 minutes to present, with additional time granted at the discretion of the presiding officer.

- Ms. Carmen Rodriguez – League of Women Voters
 - Was going to present another map, but new precincts caused deviations to rise and she has withdrawn it in order to correct that
 - Concept for map: rectify issues of disenfranchisement, neglect, and voting rights inequality in oldest and most historic districts – Central El Paso and Mission Valley
 - Historic gerrymandering in west side districts 1 and 8
 - Denied central El Paso its own district
 - Disenfranchises areas had higher density of Hispanic population, Spanish language usage, and lowest incomes in the city
 - Have never been a majority in a district

Ms. Brasgalla asked for other Public Comment, none made

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II. **REGULAR AGENDA – DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

1 Discussion and Action: Changes to the Agenda

Chair Bartlett has time constraint, must leave at 4:30 pm.

Suggestion from Ms. Brasgalla to remove Item 3, hear Item 6 first, then hear Item 5, followed by the rest of the agenda. Commissioner Renteria motioned, Commissioner Villa seconded, motion passes unanimously.

2 Discussion and Action: Review of Minutes for the December 15, 2021 Meeting.

Chair Bartlett asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the December 15, 2021 Meeting. Commissioner Esparza motioned, Commissioner Villa seconded. Passed unanimously.

Moved on to Item 4

3 Discussion and Action: Review of Minutes for the January 12, 2021 Meeting.

Item removed

4 Discussion and Action: Review of the 2022 Districting Commission Meeting Schedule.

Ms. Brasgalla noted a scheduling conflict for the regular Districting Commission Meeting on Wednesday, February 9 with Northeast Regional Command Meeting. Gave 3 options: move the Commission meeting to Friday, February 11 at 4 pm; move to the following week on Wednesday, February 16, back to back with another meeting on the 23rd; or move the meeting to the Northeast.

Commissioner Renteria commented that she was in favor of moving the meeting to either Friday, February 11 or Wednesday, February 16.

Commissioner Burns agreed with Commissioner Renteria on both options.

Ms. Brasgalla noted that moving to the 16th would give staff time to compile an overview of the meetings as a whole and provide feedback to Commissioners who were not able to make all the meetings.

Chair Bartlett asked for thoughts from Commissioners Villa and Esparza; they agreed with pushing the Commission meeting back to the 16th

Chair Bartlett noted consensus to hold the meeting from the 9th to the 16th.

Ms. Brasgalla asked for a motion to amend the schedule.

Mr. Kevin Smith noted that it's unknown on the 23rd what kind of material would be available based on staff ability to get maps ready following back to back meetings

Chair Bartlett asked for a motion to amend the Schedule. Commissioner Renteria motions, Commissioner Esparza seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Brasgalla noted that staff will make that change to the posted meeting on websites and all communication.

Ms. Brasgalla asked if the Commission would like to recess until Public Comment at 5:00 pm.

Chair Bartlett noted that he no longer had to leave at 4:30 and proposed moving on to Item 7.

5 Information, Discussion, and Action: Drafting and Selection of District Plans, to include new submissions from Julian Quinonez and the League of Women Voters.

Ms. Brasgalla noted that Ms. Carmen Rodriguez with the League of Women Voters withdraws her map at this time to work through issues with new precinct boundaries.

Ms. Brasgalla pulled up the map submittal from Julian Quinonez. Chair Bartlett asked to zoom in on area where Paisano crosses Alameda.

Chair Bartlett and Ms. Brasgalla invited anyone present or online involved with this map to speak, no answer.

Ms. Brasgalla made a staff recommendation on Action for this item: not to adopt any particular map but that the Commission may want to consider taking Action on guidance for consideration of the new precincts – convert existing maps to new precincts and new maps as they are being submitted for consistency. Staff is willing to make those conversions.

Chair Bartlett asked for an update on when to expect the county and Dave's Redistricting to have new precincts loaded in

Ms. Brasgalla responded that there was no update yet

Chair Bartlett responded about updating maps to new precincts if the author chooses. It also may be appropriate for Commissioners to resubmit maps with new precincts and not have staff have to interpret their ideas.

Ms. Brasgalla commented about a precinct in District 6 and noted that staff has started converting maps.

Mr. Kevin Smith commented that any maps that are submitted can be modified by the Commission.

Chair Bartlett recognized Commissioner Renteria

Commissioner Renteria asked if commissioners are able to resubmit maps with new Precincts, is it possible to reach out to members of the public who have submitted maps to let them know that staff can adjust their submissions or they can adjust their own as needed. In the interest of keeping community engagement open.

Chair Bartlett asked about contact information for submitters

Ms. Brasgalla responded that staff does have emails for submitters, but that if Dave's doesn't have the new precincts, nobody from the public can make those edits.

Chair Bartlett proposed waiting until the new precincts are up, and then reaching out to submitters to resubmit or get staff assistance on editing maps. Commissioners should do the same. Those who submitted maps should be responsible for submitting new maps based on the new precincts.

Chair Bartlett asked if action was necessary.

Ms. Brasgalla responded no, but if action is taken once the new precincts are in then a time limit should be imposed

Chair Bartlett agreed

Ms. Brasgalla asked for any other plans, clarified that the Commission can make edits to any maps proposed without removing the original submittal.

Commissioner Renteria asked if the Commission wanted to consider marking maps that the Commissioner does not want to consider further

Ms. Brasgalla responded that maps can be removed from consideration, but also brought back in the future.

Commissioner Renteria motioned to remove Commissioner Draft 1 Based on November 3 Meeting Comments. Commissioner Villa seconded. Motion passes 4-1, Chair Bartlett voted nay

Ms. Brasgalla stated that the map would be retained online but would add a note that the map has been removed from consideration

Chair Bartlett asked for other motions, none made. Moved on to Item 2 as Ms. Brasgalla confirmed the order of Items

6 Information and Discussion: Updates on Board administration and Public Comment submitted electronically.

Report on Public Comments by Ms. Karina Brasgalla. All emails have been forwarded to the Commission. Mostly thanks, some concerns. From previous night's meeting – mostly concerns about the timeline.

Chair Bartlett shared feedback from Susan Austin representing YISD from previous night's meeting about using precinct boundaries "when they make sense".

Ms. Brasgalla noted that Ms. Austin raised the concern that precinct boundaries do affect other types of elections than county and city e.g. school districts

Ms. Brasgalla shared a specific comment about Districts 1 and 8 being redrawn in the interest of representing historic and poorer neighborhoods; as they stand now they have older neighborhoods combined with middle- and upper-income areas. The lower portions of Districts 1 and 8 should be combined to provide a single district more likely to represent the interests of the residents.

Moved on to Item 5

7 Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas

Ms. Brasgalla noted that two items would be flipped permanently on future agendas: Public Comment updates before considering District Maps.

Chair Bartlett asked for any other Items for Future Agendas, none raised.

Chair Bartlett asked about recessing until 5.

Mr. Russel Abeln responded that the Commission would need a quorum to come out of recess. Discussion-only items can be covered without a quorum but no action may be taken.

Chair Bartlett asked if Commissioners Renteria and Burns would be able to rejoin virtually at 5:00 pm.

Both Commissioners answered affirmatively

Chair Bartlett asked for a motion to recess until 5:00 pm.

Commissioner Villa motioned, Commissioner Esparza seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Brasgalla noted that the meeting recessed at 4:33 pm.

Chair Bartlett asked for a motion to come out of recess at 5:00 pm. Motioned by Commissioner Esparza, seconded by Commissioner Villa, passes unanimously.

Vice Chair Carrillo now in attendance.

8 Adjournment

Chair Bartlett asked for a motion to adjourn. Thanked everyone for their patience and willingness to be there.

Motioned by Commissioner Villa, seconded by Commissioner Esparza, motion passes unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 5:05