

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011, 5:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR
CITY HALL BUILDING, 2 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA**

Members Present:

Gene Finke (Chair), John Karlsruher, Francisco X. Dominguez (**Vice-Chair**), Gilbert A. Mendez, Jr., David Thackston (**Vice-Chair**), Oscar Silva (5:40 p.m.), Rodolfo Troncoso, James L. Graham, Alisa Jorgensen

Planning and Economic Development Staff:

David Coronado, Executive Secretary, Lead Planner; Todd Taylor, Planner; Mariano Soto, GIS Planner

Others Present:

Marie Taylor, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Finke called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Establish Quorum

Quorum established.

3. Discussion and action on:

a. Approval of Minutes: October 3, 2011 Meeting

Chair Finke asked Commissioners if they had any additions, corrections and/or revisions.

MOTION:

Motion made by Commissioner Thackston, seconded by Vice-Chair Dominguez and
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 3, 2011 MEETING MINUTES.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Commissioner Silva

b. Guidelines for Persons Submitting Specific Redistricting Proposals

Chair Finke read the "Districting Commission, Guidelines for Persons Submitting Specific Redistricting Proposals" into the record and asked if Commissioners had any questions for Staff. The Guidelines are attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Silva arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Regarding item 5., Ms. Taylor noted, Staff will revise the date from ~~August 31, 2011~~ to **August 30, 2011.**

ITEM 1. – SUGGESTED REVISION

Chair Finke suggested Commissioners amend the language as follows:

1. Plans should be submitted in writing **“to the Planning Department of the City of El Paso.”**

Ms. Taylor clarified the Planning Department is a division of the Planning and Economic Development Department. She suggested the amended language read “1. Plans should be submitted in writing **“to the Planning and Economic Development Department of the City of El Paso.”**

Chair Finke asked if Commissioners had any further comments or discussions. There being none.

MOTION:

Motion made by Commissioner Thackston, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen and
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE DISTRICTING COMMISSION, GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS SUBMITTING SPECIFIC REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS WITH THE CHANGES PROPOSED BY CHAIR FINKE AND STAFF.

c. Drafting and selection of Districting Plans

Mr. Coronado provided a brief presentation on the Staff Draft Illustrative Districting Plan options provided for this meeting.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Thackston commented on the lack of connectivity between the areas in District 8 and asked about the possibility of moving UTEP from District 1 to District 8. Commissioner Finke commented that the voter precinct in question, Precinct 35 included the home of the Representative of District 1. Commissioner Karlsruher stated his objection to moving Precinct 35 to District 8 and commented that the change would divide the Kern neighborhood.

Commissioner Jorgensen asked about eliminating Precincts 22 and 32 from District 8 in SD-1 and adding Precincts 79, 81, 83 and 84. She then stated that she wants to take back the Five Points neighborhood and unify it into one district, District 8.

Commissioner Dominguez asked if the school district boundaries had been taken into consideration when drafting the plan options.

Commissioner Jorgensen stated her objection to dividing the Mission Hills neighborhood and stated that it should remain in District 1.

Commissioner Thackston asked to move Precinct 60 from District 4 to District 2.

Commissioner Graham stated that in SD-1, District 5 is giving up Eastwood/Album Park to District 3 and would like to see what future parks are being planned for District 5. Commissioner Silva later stated that Eastwood/Album Park acts as a city-wide park and it is not necessary for it to remain in District 5.

Commissioner Mendez stated that he would like to see the area near McRae moved from District 7 to District 3 similar to the boundaries shown in SD-2.

Commissioner Silva stated that he preferred the boundaries for District 5 in SD-1 most.

Commissioner Graham commented on the County of El Paso's new voter precinct boundaries and the population center of the Tigua/Native American community. He then distributed copies of his *"Thoughts and Concerns - Traditional Lands and Property of the Tigua People"* to Commissioners and Staff (copy of letter attached to the minutes). Commissioner Thackston stated that the shift in Precinct 150 may have been due to State Representative District lines and asked staff to check. Commissioner Graham asked that Precinct 150 be moved from District 7 to District 6 similar to the boundaries shown in SD-3. He also asked that Staff look at the Native American demographics in the area. Commissioner Jorgensen asked that staff look at the properties owned by the Tigua and Chair Finke asked that one of the community meetings be held in the area.

Commissioner Graham stated his approval that Hanks High School was moved into District 7 in SD-1.

Commissioner Thackston commented on the fact that SD-2 does not allow for future growth in Districts 5 and 7 and thought it might be better to allow more than District 7 to grow similar to the layout shown in SD-3. Commissioner Graham agreed that Districts 5, 6 and 7 are best laid out in SD-3, though he had concerns about the proposed boundaries of District 7.

Chair Finke asked if any members of the public wished to comment. There was no public comment.

Chair Finke asked if Commissioners had any further comments or discussions. No further comment or discussion from Commissioners.

4. Call for Public Comment

None.

5. Adjournment

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chair Thackston, seconded by Commissioner Dominguez and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned at 6:58PM.