



Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 5/8/15 TIME 3:13pm

SERVED BY Jane Rouse

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Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission

Thursday, May 14, 2015

3:00 pm to 5:00 p.m.

Santa Fe Community Convention Center

201 W. Marcy Avenue

Kearny Room

1. PROCEDURES:
 - a) Roll Call
 - b) Approval of Agenda
 - c) Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2015 meeting.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a) Standing Item-Legal Issues Surrounding Redistricting
4. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a) Discussion and Possible Action on Redistricting Plan
5. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT
6. BOARD MATTERS
 - a) Next meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the City Council Chambers, if necessary
7. ADJOURNMENT

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
AT 955-6520, FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO MEETING DATE.

**SUMMARY INDEX
CITY OF SANTA FE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015

| ITEM | ACTION TAKEN | PAGE(S) |
|--|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. PROCEDURES | | |
| a) Roll Call | Quorum | 1 |
| b) Approval of Agenda | Approved | 1 |
| c) Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2015 | Approved | 1-2 |
| 2. OPENING PUBLIC COMMENT | None | 2 |
| 3. OLD BUSINESS | | |
| a) Standing Legal Item- Legal Issues: Redistricting | None | 2 |
| 4. NEW BUSINESS | | |
| a. Discussion/Possible Action on Redistricting Plan | Approved | 2-5 |
| 5. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT | Discussed | 5 |
| 6. BOARD MATTERS | | |
| a) Next meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2015, 3-5 p.m. if necessary | | 7 |
| 7. ADJOURNMENT | Adjourned at 3:47 p.m. | 7 |

**MINUTES OF THE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Thursday, May 14, 2015

A scheduled meeting of the Independent Citizens' Restricting Commission was called to order by Karen Heldmeyer, Chair, on this date at approximately 3:00 p.m. at, Santa Fe Community Convention Center, Kearny Room, 201 W. Marcy Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

1. PROCEDURES:

a) Roll call indicated a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

Karen Heldmeyer, chair
Lillian J. Montoya, vice chair
William Beardsley
Steven M. Bassett
Erin McSherry
Roderick E. Thompson
Elizabeth West

Members Absent:

Alternates Present: Neva Van Peski and Peggy Vasquez (both arrived later), Jody Larson was present and Suzanne Ronneau was excused.

Staff Present:

Zachary Shandler, Assistant City Attorney

Others Present:

Brian Sanderoff, Research & Polling, Inc.
Michael Sharp, Research & Polling, Inc.
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

b) Approval of Agenda

Ms. Montoya moved to approve the agenda as published. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

c) Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2015

Page 5, 4th paragraph from the bottom, the second sentence: "She said also the traditional Village of Agua Fria is in the next annexation area..." should state: *She said also the traditional Village of Agua Fria is next to the next annexation area.*"

Page 6, 2nd paragraph from the bottom: "Chair Heldmeyer said Mr. Sanderoff had mentioned the four issues the Commission must look at and *not only those issues that the courts tell them are the most important, but there are issues in the City Charter and the ordinance that created the Commission*" should be corrected to read: "...not only those issues that the courts tell them are most important, but the same issues are in the Charter and the ordinance that created the Commission".

Peggy Vasquez entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Beardsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT- None

3. OLD BUSINESS

a) Standing Item-Legal Issues Surrounding Redistricting-

Mr. Shandler said there are no outstanding issues.

Chair Heldmeyer noted a copy of a letter from Councilor Lindell to the Commission. (Exhibit 1)

Ms. Van Peski entered the meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Discussion and Possible Action on Redistricting Plan

Chair Heldmeyer confirmed that everyone had heard the presentation from Mr. Sanderoff and there was no need to review the plans again.

Ms. West said part of the reason for having two public comment periods is if anyone wants to discuss the plans. She said for those who would like they could make a comment now, or later.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if anyone wanted to say anything prior to the Commission's discussion.

Ms. Larson asked if this would be the time for input from the alternates.

Chair Heldmeyer explained she planned to include the input from the alternates after the individual Commissioner comments. She asked that each Commissioner give their thoughts and preferences on the plans and provide useful comments as to why they feel the way they do.

Mr. Bassett said he prefers Plan A at this point. He said he heard a lot of local support from the community at the listening sessions for Plan A. He said the other plans all have minor things that make them less preferential.

Mr. Beardsley said there was public input on the original plan presented to the Commission and exceeded the plus or minus factor. He said that plan and Plan A-2 reminded him too much of gerrymandering. He

said Plan D has an east-west division down St. Francis Drive and the split was unwieldy and would have caused at least two City Councilors to change districts, so for that reason he rejected Plan D. Mr. Beardsley said Plan C extended area 3 [District Three] all the way to St. Francis Drive. He said in parts of area 3, one of the biggest situations is the need for amenities such as large grocery stores, etc. and making area 3 that large would suddenly then have four grocery stores in a four block area, but none would be close to the areas that need them most. He said that diluted a discussion for improvement for that area and for that reason he rejected Plan C.

Mr. Beardsley said the long neck on District One is unwieldy on Plan B and covers a large area and is diversified with no good reason for the plan.

Mr. Beardsley said Plan A-2 was created just in case of growth expansion and he is not in a speculative mood, but he would not reject Plan A-2 totally. He said that gets back to the original Plan A, which meets all of the Commission's instructions. He said the instructions were clear: compact, contiguous, preserve the subdivisions and communities of interest and protect the incumbents. He said Plan A does all of that and without the need to look at anything else.

Ms. Montoya said she also has a preference for Plan A for many of the reasons cited, and in addition with redistricting that is likely to happen in five years. Choosing Plan A is least disruptive to the fewest number of precincts and the smallest number of population and will keep it from getting too confusing for voters and others. She said for that reason she chooses Plan A.

Mr. Thompson said he also agrees with the other Commissioners that Plan A is the most logical. He said the points made by the other Commissioners were spot on, although he allowed himself flexibility of Plan A-2, if that was the pleasure of the Commission. He said Plan A feels right in terms of everything mentioned; the flexibility for the expanding populations in Districts Three and Four and in recognizing the historical boundaries and keeping historical neighborhoods and communities of interest together as much as possible.

Ms. McSherry said she also prefers Plan A as well, but wanted to point out some of the things about Plan B that struck her. She said she did not like Plan B at all. She did not like that the three districts came together, but she does like that the breaks are at major streets. She said someone in District Three that will become part of District One, spoke strongly in favor of Plan B and said they felt more connected to the river corridor. She said also some who came to the first couple of meetings spoke about keeping the river corridor together.

She said despite the weird shape of District One, it actually is not much bigger a stretch than in Plan A and less than a mile for the whole circumference between the distance around the largest district in Plan A and the distance around the largest district in Plan B. She said they are not that different in terms of contiguous, compact nature of the districts. She said District One in Plan A and Plan B are very similar in terms of being spread out.

Ms. McSherry said in addition, communities of interest as described in the Charter states *'including those based on ethnic and economic compacters'*. She said Plan A was criticized because it does put communities of economic and ethnic groups more together than they are. However, communities of interest can be defined along other means.

Ms. McSherry said she thought they should weigh the current communities of interest in terms of association of a voting district. She said one risk is that this does seem to suggest that the Commission is supposed to group together ethnic and economic factors; whereas the testimony on behalf was partly that it breaks down those factors. She said, however communities of interest has a broad definition and can include current voting affiliation and who you feel connected with, among other things. And it does keep other types of communities of interest together.

She said that is why she prefers Plan A. She said regarding Plan A versus Plan A-2, she thinks speculating on 1-2 % difference is not worth it at this point, given the five-year opportunity.

Ms. West said nothing can be perfect and that makes it easier to make a decision. She said she also supports Plan A, because it is a slightly more conservative way of making the change. She likes the idea of the long stretch in Plan B and the neck going along the river. She said it fits in with the elongated shape of our funny city, but it doesn't quite work and stretches things too much. She said she is in District Two and agrees with what Councilor Ives said about the sense that there will be the two plans that divide Districts One and Two, north-south. She said she generally trusts the City Councilors to be fair and as non political as possible and she feels the Commission has done that as well.

Ms. West said she did not like Plan C from the beginning, but she tried to look at the Plan in a positive light and thought it great that the plan was presented. She said the Commission asked for the plan and the consultants delivered it. She thanked them for doing that.

She said she also likes that Plan A has two majority Hispanic districts. She said that reflects what is happening in Santa Fe and she does prefer Plan A. She said although she did miss one meeting, there were a lot of people who said they felt comfortable with Plan A and she would like to honor that too.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the alternates would like to say anything.

Ms. Van Peski said, "Either Plan A or A 2." Ms. Larson said, "Ditto."

Ms. Vasquez said it is not ditto for her. She said it would be nice to rattle a few cages and she likes Plan B and Plan D, even though she knew it will affect one or two City Councilors. She mostly prefers B, but likes Plan D and the east and west on Districts One and Two and how it is connected and how District One will have to deal with a little of the undocumented; those who cannot vote. She said that is mostly why she likes Plan D and for the same reasons, she likes Plan B.

Chair Heldmeyer said in the absence of people, she sort of likes Plan C, but they are not doing this in the absence of people. She said she likes Plan C because of the way it groups communities of interest and it is as compact as you can get in this city. She said because they are doing this with people and because the comments received from the public was to try to use the least changed model because it was less confusing and people knew who their City Councilor's are, and because Councilors would not be moved all over the City.

Chair Heldmeyer said she likes the idea of Plan A-2 taking the population of District Four down some. She thought there will be growth. She said people may move into that area in the next five years, but we really don't know at this point and it is only for five years and before it would be revisited.

Chair Heldmeyer said she feels guilty that the Commission had the consultants draw up all these plans and compile all this data and come up with wonderful maps, and all of the Commissioners chose the first plan, Plan A. She said she leans toward Plan A as well.

5. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Tim Julian said the people he spoke with from District Two, concur that Plan A will work. They want to keep their City Councilors and Plan A works more easily. He said District Two looks like a behemoth in Plan B and Plan D, but with Plan A and possibly Plan A-2; there are better demographics.

Councilor Peter Ives said since the last meeting he looked through everything that had been produced and the back pages of various maps with the demographic information. He said he realized for the reasons of the demographics on the back of Plan A, that he liked Plan A among the plans that were put forward. He said looking at the breakdown in terms of race and ethnicity across the City with the Hispanic listed at a total of 54.6% and white 44.8% and with the decreasing numbers significantly lower across the board; Plan A creates two greater than 50% majority Hispanic districts in the City. Plan A also created a third district, based on total numbers that is greater Hispanic than any other district without tipping the 50% mark.

He said Plan A seems to honor the division in terms of race and ethnicity significantly, while avoiding some of the downsides of the east-west division that was reflected in Plans B and D. He said on the basis of that it seemed the most appropriate plan to move forward. He said some described the plan as conservative and that does make sense, especially in the context of an annexation as opposed to a census revision to the City. He said Plan A does reduce the impact best out of all the options. He said he applauds the decision of the Commission.

Chair Heldmeyer said she would remind everyone of something the Commission was told by the consultants several times; every one of these districts has elected Anglo and Hispanic Councilors at one time or another. She said the breakdown of who lives there is not as absolute as it might be in other cities.

Councilor Ives said he hopes that is a reflection of how we live in this city.

Ms. Montoya moved that the Commission recommend Plan A as presented. Mr. Beardsley seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with all Commissioners voting for the motion. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

Mr. Shandler said he appreciated the Commission's work and good findings. He said he would spend a couple of minutes with the consultant to finalize everything for the record. He asked Mr. Sanderoff the following confirming questions:

1. Does Plan A meet the requirement "*each district shall contain as nearly as possible, substantially the same population?*" Please provide an explanation of why Plan A meets that requirement.

Mr. Sanderoff said it does. He said the Charter does not say as equal as possible, it says "*as substantially as equal as possible*". Substantially, Plan A does that. He said it is possible to mathematically come up with districts that have slightly more equal population, but Plan A does substantially. Mr. Sanderoff said, "*In*

order to accomplish districts that are more equal, they would then be getting into violating other principles such as splitting precincts, so the answer is, yes it does."

2. Does Plan A satisfy: *"the districting plan must avoid dilution of minority voting strengths?"*

Mr. Sanderoff replied, *"Yes it does. Plan A creates two majority voting age Hispanic districts, so it sets a higher bar than just total population under the majority. Under the current plan that City Council is under, there is one majority Hispanic adult district, and now there will be two. Also the nature of Santa Fe is such where there would have to be gerrymandering or subordinate other principles in order to create a better plan when it comes to minority voting strength. This plan does not dilute minority voting strength."*

3. How does Plan A satisfy *"communities of interest, including those based on ethnic and economic factors shall be preserved within a single district whenever reasonable"*?

Mr. Sanderoff said starting with Plan A and looking at District Three, it includes compact and contiguous areas from the Airport to Tierra Contenta; District One is a compact district including the northern part of Santa Fe going down Cerrillos corridor to Siler Road; District Two is a compact district including a new part of the east side of Santa Fe and having a northern border between Districts One and Two of Canyon Road, Alameda and Cerrillos Road and District 4 is also compact using the boundaries from I-25 to the Cerrillos corridor.

Mr. Sanderoff said, *"And so Plan A does take into account communities of interest regions to the extent that it can, given that each district must also enjoy substantially equal population."*

4. *Each district shall be formed of compact contiguous territories and the total length of all boundary lines shall be as short as possible. Why will Plan A satisfy that?*

Mr. Sanderoff said, *"Plan A does have a perimeter the sum of the boundaries of the districts as being the shortest. It is compact, it is contiguous and there are no parts of any neighborhood that is not contiguous to the rest of the district, except where the City boundaries create a circumstance where it is impossible to not have islands."* For example Precinct 82 may not be contiguous with the rest of the district and is only because the City limits of Santa Fe do not allow us to make it contiguous. He said Plan A is compact and contiguous.

5. *The Districting Plan shall compensate for US census undercount of minorities.*

Mr. Sanderoff said there is no firm data to allow us to do that, but in the two Hispanic majority adult districts the percent above 50% is so substantial that renders that issue moot.

Mr. Shandler said people will read the minutes years from now and definitely in five years. He wanted to be sure concise sentences are on the record and in the minutes. He said he appreciated their indulgence.

Chair Heldmeyer said she wanted to say on the record, how grateful the Commission is to the consultants. She said we know the amount of work they did and the time they spent listening to the Commissioners and creating what the Commissioners asked for to look at the possibilities. She hoped that Mr. Sanderoff and Mr. Sharp did not feel that everything past Plan A was a waste of time; it wasn't. She said the fact is that the public talked about all of the plans and many of them picked several different plans. She said it was

important to have the variety of plans. Chair Heldmeyer said she found it interesting that the Commission came up with such a consensus decision.

Chair Heldmeyer said she appreciates the consultants' time.

Mr. Sanderoff said he finds that people often have a hard time envisioning what the plan should look like, but they are very competent at reacting to the plans. He said the Commission's decision to be more inclusive than exclusive when paring down plans was a good idea, because it allowed people to compare and contrast.

Chair Heldmeyer thanked Mr. Shandler for being the faithful staff person who came to all of the meetings. She said he did a wonderful job and she would ask that he extend her appreciation to Irene Romero for her work as well, which was always very timely. She also thanked the recorder for the good minutes.

She said after the meeting adjourned everyone is invited to participate in a nonalcoholic toast.

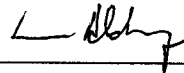
6. BOARD MATTERS

Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the City Council Chambers, if necessary.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

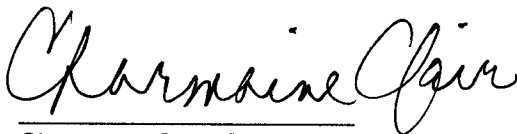
Having completed the agenda and with no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Approved by:



Karen Heldmeyer, Chair

Submitted by:



Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

SHANDLER, ZACHARY A.

From: Signe Lindell <s.lindell@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 11:02 PM
To: SHANDLER, ZACHARY A.
Subject: Redistricting

Greetings,

I would like to reiterate my preference for Option A or A1. These 2 plans most closely mimic current districts while meeting the goals of redistricting.

My preference is also based on my experience as a Councilor. People do identify with their district and with their elected officials. All presented plans accomplish the basics of redistricting but the radical changes in my opinion will diminish our already low voter turn outs. Plans B,C and D make very radical boundary changes with little numerical benefit. We will redistricting again in 5 years. Between now and 2020 we have plenty of work to do, and I think we can accomplish more with as little boundary change as possible.

I urge you adopt Option A or A1.

Sincerely

Signe Lindell

Councilor District 1

Sent from my iPad