

**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
2010 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

**SUMMARY MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2010**

Voting Members Present:

District 1	Linda Lopez
District 2	Roberta M. Rael, Vice-Chair
District 4	Bob Gurule
District 5	Sander Rue
District 6	Michael Montoya
District 7	Janice Arnold-Jones, Chair

Alternate Members Present:

District 1	Vanessa Chavez
District 2	Lissa Knudsen
District 3	Claudia Isaac
District 6	Sandra Ortsman
District 7	Wayne Johnson
District 8	Barbara Morgan

Others Present:

Laura Mason, Director, Council Services
Jon Zaman, Council Staff
Diana Trujeque, Council Staff
Crystal Ortega, Council Staff
Tim Karpoff, Karpoff & Associates Inc.
Michael Sharp, Research & Polling Inc.
Robert Kidd, City Attorney's Office
Amy Bailey, City Clerk

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Arnold-Jones. Mr. Gurule moved approval of the agenda, Mr. Rue seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of November 4, 2010 Meeting

Mr. Rue moved approval of the November 4, 2010 Summary Minutes, Ms. Isaac seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. Sterling Fluharty addressed the Committee. His comments included the addition of two Council Districts, and the examination of the American Community Survey (ACS) data. Mr. Fluharty provided a copy of his comments to staff for the record.

Mr. Rue thanked Mr. Fluharty for his comments and asked staff about the addition of two Council districts. Mr. Zaman responded that the Charter requires the City be divided into nine Council districts and in order for that portion of the Charter to be amended it would require approval by the voters.

Mr. Rue asked if the ACS data mentioned by Mr. Fluharty is data that is being looked at by Mr. Sharp in his analysis. Mr. Sharp responded yes, it is something he is looking at with respect to estimating the populations at the precinct level.

Overview of the Redistricting Committee Web Site (under construction)

Mr. Zaman gave a brief demonstration of the Redistricting Committee web site and its current links and features.

Vice-Chair Rael asked how members of the community can contact Committee members. Mr. Zaman responded that if the Committee members so wish, their email addresses can be added to the web site. He added that a comment box will soon be added to the web site.

Mr. Gurule requested information regarding the Committee's work and web site be provided to the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC).

Discussion of 2011 Election Timeline and Milestone Dates

Chair Arnold-Jones pointed out the importance for citizens to understand why the legislation was set up the way it was and why the Committee will be working with anticipated data. She asked Ms. Bailey to go through the upcoming unofficial election timeline and pointed out that the deadlines relate to the work of the Committee.

Ms. Bailey presented the Abbreviated Unofficial 2011 Election Calendar. She stated the next municipal election will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 and will focus on even numbered City Council districts, as well as any bond issues or City Charter Amendments. In working backwards from the election date of October 4, 2011, she stated the deadlines begin in March 2011.

Ms. Bailey stated that the exploratory period begins Tuesday, March 15, 2011 pursuant to the City Charter. The qualifying period begins Sunday, May 1, 2011 and applicant candidates can only accept contributions from registered voters from within the district they wish to represent. If redistricting is not complete by May 1, 2011, she stated that candidates will not be able to accurately collect funds and potentially harm their ability to qualify for public financing.

Mr. Johnson asked if the 2% requirement is still in place for qualification signatures. Ms. Bailey stated that for City Council it is 1% of the registered voters within the district they want to qualify for.

Ms. Bailey reviewed the timelines within her presentation. She added that the work of the Committee will affect the ability to carry off the requirements of the Open and Ethical Elections Code.

Chair Arnold-Jones thanked Ms. Bailey for her presentation and requested Ms. Bailey give an abbreviated version of her presentation at the next meeting.

Mr. Rue asked if there were any statutorial or other deadlines placed the on the Committee to have its work completed. Mr. Kidd stated that the City Charter requires the Commission and the Redistricting process occur after the Federal Census, but there are no hard deadlines stated in the City Charter.

Ms. Knudsen asked if this is the first Redistricting Committee that has worked on these deadlines due to the public financing changes. Ms. Bailey responded yes.

Chair Arnold-Jones pointed out that it is possible the Committee will not receive the final census data until April 1 and asked if it is reasonable to believe that if we get the Committee's recommendations to the Council on April 15, will they adopt it that quickly. She discussed the challenge at hand and the importance of making the citizens understand. She added that it is unusual for any Committee to function while using estimated data.

Mr. Zaman agreed that it will be a compressed schedule toward the end and that the Committee will be using estimated data right up until the end. He added that Mr. Sharp's best guess is for the Committee to receive the data the last week of March.

Mr. Zaman stated that it is important for the Committee to have their concepts solidified and have the theory behind the maps solidified so that once the data is received and dropped in, the Committee does not have to discuss or debate concepts and it will just be a matter of rearranging for the numbers.

Mr. Johnson expressed the need for transparency in this process and concern regarding an inadequate amount of time to allow for public review and comment. He noted that if the Committee provides its recommendation by April 15, the next regularly scheduled Council meeting is April 18. He asked about the possibility of having additional Council meetings in April to allow for more time for public review. Mr. Zaman stated the City Council has the ability to schedule Special Council meetings and the plans will also be posted on the Committee web site as soon as possible.

Vice-Chair Rael asked about keeping Councilors informed of the work of the Committee so they can in turn let their constituencies know the timeline and the reason behind the timeline. Mr. Zaman responded that staff will be working with the Councilors to keep them apprised of the Committee's work, and added that the expectation is for each Committee member to work with the Councilor that appointed them and it will then be up to the Councilors how and in what manner they want to rollout that information to their constituents. He added that the resolution creating the Committee has the Committee's preliminary recommendations going to the Council on March 1, so beginning March 1 there will be some concepts available for the public to look at and for Councilors to take to their constituents.

Vice-Chair Rael requested a timeline be provided that includes the Committee's process deadlines as well as the municipal election deadlines.

Mr. Gurule stressed the importance of transparency and getting the neighborhoods involved early on in the process.

Vice-Chair Rael asked where else will the timeline be available for viewing by citizens. Mr. Zaman stated the timeline could be placed in the Neighborhood Newsletter as well as in Ms. Bailey's office. Ms. Bailey stated the information will also be available on the City Clerk's web site.

Baseline Demographic Data

Mr. Sharp reviewed the estimates of current overall City population and demographics based on 2009 American Community Survey data. The information provided included growth patterns exhibited from 1991-2000 and the similarity to the growth patterns observed from 2001-2010.

Mr. Sharp's presentation is attached to these Summary Minutes.

2010 Population Estimates

Mr. Sharp explained the various methods of estimating the population data that will be used in the redistricting process.

Mr. Sharp stated the base data to be used for the Committee's work will be the 2000 census data as well as the new residential building permits issued from 2000-2009. He added that postal service data and voter registration data will also be used. He stated those were the four primary sources of data that will be used.

Mr. Johnson asked about potential changes to precinct shapes and how it affects the work of the Committee and when will that data be provided. Mr. Sharp stated that the precincts, if they are changed at all, would not happen until after the release of the census data. He added that if it is anything like past redistricting years that any changes to the precincts would be done as soon as possible because of legislative redistricting, city redistricting and county redistricting.

Chair Arnold-Jones asked how this will be synced up considering that the legislative process will not have begun. Ms. Lopez responded that at this past legislative session a bill was passed where all the precincts have been frozen between now and until the end of the redistricting session, which should happen in August or September of 2011.

Chair Arnold-Jones expressed concern that this Committee will be creating Council districts without the visibility of precincts. She asked Mr. Zaman to go back to the Council to ask them if they are sure that this is the timeline they want the Committee to follow.

Mr. Zaman stated he would work with Legal staff to look into the issue of whether or not doing it this way with the accelerated timeline at the end, or the alternative, which is putting off this process to the 2013 election and doing the redistricting when all the data is available. Mr. Zaman will work with Legal staff to look into this issue. Ms. Lopez agreed with Chair Arnold-Jones concerns.

Chair Arnold-Jones stated that the message she would like the City Council to hear is that the Committee is ready, willing and able to serve but again requested Mr. Zaman go back to the Council to be sure that they have anticipated the questions that are being asked.

Ms. Isaac inquired about what the process would be if the Committee waited an electoral cycle and the schedule changed and what are the legal requirements. Mr. Zaman stated that there may be a difference of opinion about the underlying legal language, but the Charter says that following the receipt of census data the City must form a Redistricting Committee and redistrict. He will discuss these issues with both Mr. Stelzner as well as the City Legal Department. He stated that if the analysis shows that perhaps it is better to put this off to a later date, the resolution can be rescinded or modified to reflect that, but he did not want to speculate what Legal Counsel would say at this point.

Ms. Isaac asked when the ACS data would be available. Mr. Sharp responded it would be available in December.

Ms. Isaac asked about postal service data and the volatility that exists with regard to vacant homes. Mr. Sharp stated he will take the new building permits and send them through the postal service database, which will then flag those addresses that are not deliverable or are vacant. He stated that should give him a good idea where the foreclosures are, and where building permits were issued, but nothing has been built yet and he will exclude those.

Vice-Chair Rael asked when the postal service data will be available. Mr. Sharp responded that he will have the data within the next day or so.

Vice-Chair Rael requested the legislative redistricting timeline be provided to the Committee. She added it would be helpful to have the full picture at one time versus piece by piece.

Chair Arnold-Jones requested that a list of all the acronyms being used by the Committee be placed on the web site. Mr. Zaman responded that he would add a glossary of terms to the Committee's web site.

Mr. Gurule asked whether or not illegal immigrants are being counted. Mr. Sharp responded that they are being counted even though lower numbers exist due to non-reporting, but regardless of citizenship, everyone is counted and considered for redistricting.

Mr. Gurule asked which data is the most reliable and which is least reliable. In order of reliability of data, Mr. Sharp stated the 2000 census data is the most reliable, then building permits, then voter registration.

Mr. Gurule inquired about the estimation process for calculating persons per household. Mr. Sharp stated he is using the block group census data as the basis for estimating persons per household, not precinct level data.

Mr. Sharp's presentation regarding the estimation process is attached to these Summary Minutes.

Next Steps

Chair Arnold-Jones reminded the Committee that the next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2010 and added that although she would prefer a different meeting setup, the December 2 meeting will again be data intensive, therefore it will be held in the Council Chambers.

The Committee was reminded to forward their brief biographies to staff for inclusion on the Committee's web site.

Mr. Zaman informed the Committee of the change in membership for the District 3 appointee. He stated Mr. Phillip Baca will replace Mr. Ted Martinez as the District 3 voting member.

Chair Arnold-Jones and Vice-Chair Rael expressed appreciation for staff and the data they prepared for tonight's meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Committee, Mr. Gurule moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm, Ms. Lopez seconded and the motion passed unanimously.