

MINUTES
FOR THE 2010 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM – 12TH FLOOR

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 4:05 p.m. 19 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 6:36 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting of the Redistricting Commission on Thursday, May 19, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow
(M) Frederick Kosmo
(M) Arthur Nishioka
(M) David Potter
(M) Theresa Quiroz

ROLL CALL:

Chair Anisha Dalal called the roll:

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal - present
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez - present
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow - present
(M) Frederick Kosmo - present
(M) Arthur Nishioka - present
(M) David Potter - present
(M) Theresa Quiroz - present

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Redistricting Commission on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Comments are limited to no more than three minutes per speaker. Submit requests to speak to the Midori Wong, Redistricting Commission Chief of Staff, before the item is called. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, no discussion or action, other than a referral, shall be taken by the Redistricting Commission on any issue brought forth under Non-Agenda Comment.

Comment 1 – Cory Briggs, Treasurer of EMPOWER San Diego, spoke about the intimidation that has been going on against the Commission concerning the software that will be used by the Commission. Commented on the Brown Act restriction that members of the Commission cannot speak to the public outside of the meetings and feels that restriction is a violation of the Brown Act. He also felt that a hijacking is taking place with the threats of lawsuits, and that the Commissioners should stand up and do the right thing.

Comment 2 – Jim Varnadore, a resident of City Heights, spoke about the community. He feels that whether City Heights is undivided or divided, the community should decide how that's done.

Comment 3 – Dennis McNaney, spoke about communities of interest and each district having equal representation.

COMMISSION COMMENT:

Commissioner Quiroz commented on the motion made at last meeting about translations services and asked the Commission to reconsider retaking a vote.

Commissioner Kosmo expressed appreciation for the public coming out to the meetings and giving their input.

Chair Dalal suggested that an item be placed on the May 19th Agenda to include Commissioner Quiroz comment regarding translation services.

Commissioner Potter clarified Commissioner Quiroz's comment and suggested that it be put to a vote at tonight's meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY STAFF ASSIGNED TO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION COMMENT:

None.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM - 1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Potter: To approve the Minutes for April 21, 2011. Second by Commissioner Nishioka. Motion passed 6-0. Vice Chair Marquez abstains.

ITEM – 2: MAPPING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

For Item 2A, Commissioner Morrow provided a statement regarding the Mapping Subcommittee report from the April 21, 2011 Commission meeting regarding the evaluation of proposals received in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Chair Dalal asked Ms. Wong to provide the report for Item 2B prior to taking public comment for Items 2A and 2B.

Ms. Wong provided the report for Item 2B, including information received immediately prior to the Commission meeting that changed the content of the report included in the agenda packet. She reported that after weeks of discussion, as of May 4, the management of San Diego Data Processing Corporation (SDDPC) had decided to withdraw from providing redistricting support services due to a stated perceived conflict of interest. As of May 4, SDDPC was still willing to purchase the redistricting software only.

One hour prior to the Commission meeting, Ms. Wong was notified by SDDPC staff that Mr. Larry Morgan, Executive Director of SDDPC, had reversed the decision to purchase redistricting software on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Wong called Mr. Morgan to ask for clarification and to discuss her understanding that SDDPC, as the City's contracted IT service provider, regularly purchases software for the City and often at a significant cost savings to the City. Mr. Morgan indicated that outside pressure and recent press coverage related to the project, combined with the ongoing RFP associated with managed competition, caused him to change his mind. As a result, the Commission will need to go through City Purchasing Department rules to purchase the software and the Commission's efforts will be delayed.

Public Comment – 1: Graham Forbes, a resident of Crown Point, expressed his concerns about National Demographics Corporation (NDC). He asked the Commission to consider identifying the funding sources of the group drawing the map and disclose that information to the public.

Public Comment – 2: Dennis Kenneally, a resident of Del Cerro, expressed his concerns about the process and the management of the Redistricting Commission.

Public Comment – 3: Lani Lutar, on behalf of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, spoke about the importance of the Commission being impartial, fair and open throughout this process. She

Public Comment – 4: Ian Trowbridge, a resident of Mission Hills, asked the Commission to exclude Mr. Johnson from future vendor requests.

Public Comment – 5: Corey Briggs asked the Commission when requesting RFPs to ask for information regarding all owners, funding sources and to disclose any lawsuits.

Public Comment – 6: Jeanne Brown, a resident of Ocean Beach, spoke on behalf of the Common Cause organization and suggested that the Commission consider using the County Data Processing staff for the mapping service.

Public Comment – 7: Waskah Whelan, a resident of Point Loma, spoke about the criteria used by the Commission, City Charter Section requirements, and communities of interest.

Public Comment – 8: Mathew Kostrinsky, a resident of Del Cerro, expressed his feelings about the process of selecting a vendor and asked to make sure that there is transparency in the process.

Public Comment – 9: Ken Seaton-Msemaji, Sheet Metal Local 206, spoke about the contract with the City for the mapping software and suggested to ask the City to reconsider their decision.

Public Comment – 10: Evan McLaughlin stated that the Republican Party is trying to slow down the process.

Public Comment – 11: Ms. Wong read an email from Douglas Johnson to the Commission which expressed NDC's interest to assist and asked the Commission to reconsider NDC's proposal.

Public Comment – 12: Barrett Tetlow, a representative of the Republican Party of San Diego County, commented on the Commission's timeline, and gave a brief summary of the Rose Institute's background.

Chair Dalal asked Ms. Wong to comment on the options available to the Commission in order to move forward.

Ms. Wong presented options for consideration by the Commission: (1) Issue a new RFP for support services while procuring software separately; and (2) Approve mapping subcommittee membership and discuss evaluation criteria for a new RFP.

Motion by Commissioner Quiroz: To dissolve the current mapping subcommittee and replace it with Chair Dalal, Commissioner Potter, and Commissioner Nishioka; that the new subcommittee be given the authority to make a recommendation for the purchase of the mapping software, and create a new RFP for support services or support services and software if needed. Second by Commissioner Kosmo. Motion passed 6-1. Commissioner Nishioka is not in favor.

ITEM - 3: DIRECTION REGARDING ONLINE POSTING OF SUBMITTED MAPS

Ms. Wong asked for direction on posting maps submitted to the Commission online in response to requests from the public. She noted that maps must be posted through requests made to the City IT Web Team and that it could pose a time and resource issue depending on how often maps were uploaded and updated.

Commissioners suggested that there be a signed release from the person submitting the map, and discussed possible parameters on how maps should be submitted and the upload schedule.

Public Comment - 1: Dan Holstein, a resident of Point Loma, commented on and expressed his concern about the Commission being bullied.

Public Comment - 2: Emily Serafy Cox, the Executive Director of EMPOWER San Diego, commented on submitted maps as public record.

Motion by Commissioner Marquez: To direct the Chief of Staff to work with the City Attorney to draft and publicize guidelines and a release authorization form for all map submissions for the purposes of posting those maps every week. Second by Commissioner Kosmo. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

ITEM – 4: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO REGISTRAR OF VOTERS CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMISSION TIMELINE

Ms. Wong introduced two attachments; 1) a letter from the County of San Diego Registrar of Voters requesting a September 15 deadline for the final redistricting plan in order to meet deadlines associated with preparing for a June 2012 primary election, and 2) a revised timeline for Commissioners' review.

Motion by Commissioner Quiroz: That the Timeline Subcommittee be given the authority to work with Ms. Wong to finalize meeting dates for May and June. Second by Commissioner Kosmo. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Motion by Commission Marquez: To affirm the deadline of September 15, 2011 as indicated in the memo provided by the Registrar of Voters, and to affirm the Commission's current commitment to adopt the final redistricting plan by August 16, 2011. Second by Commissioner Kosmo. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

ITEM – 5: DISCUSSION TO APPROVE HIRING TEMPORARY STAFF

Ms. Wong gave a brief summary of the report given to approve hiring an additional temporary staff.

Motion made by Commissioners Potter: To allow the Chief of Staff to interview and hire additional temporary staff as needed and at an amount not to exceed the existing approved budget for executive support staff. Second by Commissioner Marquez. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

STAFF REPORTS

ITEM - 6: MIDORI WONG, CHIEF OF STAFF

Ms. Wong presented a report on estimated Commission budget expenditures through April 30, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Dalal adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.