

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
2010 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

SUMMARY MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2010

Voting Members Present:

District 1	Linda Lopez
District 2	Roberta M. Rael
District 4	Bob Gurule
District 5	Sander Rue
District 6	Michael Montoya
District 7	Janice Arnold-Jones
District 8	Hal Stratton
District 9	Mickey Barnett

Alternate Members Present:

District 1	Vanessa Chavez
District 2	Lissa Knudson
District 3	Claudia Isaac
District 6	Sandra Ortsman
District 7	Wayne Johnson
District 8	Barbara Morgan
District 9	Bob Martinez

City Councilors Present:

Ken Sanchez, City Council President, District 1
Trudy Jones, City Council Vice-President, District 8

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.
Luis Stelzner, Stelzner Law Firm
Robert Kidd, City Attorney's Office
Amy Bailey, City Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Mr. Karpoff. In the absence of a Chair, Mr. Karpoff served as facilitator for the first meeting.

Welcome

Council President Ken Sanchez and Council Vice-President Trudy Jones welcomed the Committee members and expressed gratitude for their willingness to serve.

Introductions

Mr. Karpoff introduced himself and welcomed all members of the Committee. Committee members and staff introduced themselves and spoke briefly regarding their experience and professional backgrounds.

As a procedural matter, Mr. Karpoff asked the Committee members how they would like to address each other during meetings. Committee members responded they preferred addressing one another on an informal first name basis.

Overview of the Resolution

Mr. Zaman gave an overview of the authorizing legislation for the Committee, the Committee structure and responsibilities, and the process timeline.

In reviewing the process timeline, Mr. Zaman stated the Committee will not have the 2010 census data at the time of making its recommendations, but Mr. Sharp will provide preliminary data to work from. When the final data is released by the Census, the Committee can modify their preliminary plans. Once the Committee receives the final census data, the resolution gives the Committee fifteen days to take the final data and filter it back through the preliminary plans and come up with final recommendations to the Council.

Mr. Zaman noted that all meetings of the Committee are public meetings and any documents distributed at the meetings are subject to the Inspection of Public Records Act. He added that the resolution states that meetings will generally be conducted in accordance with the Council Rules of Procedure.

Mr. Zaman pointed out that the resolution requires a majority vote for its final recommendation, but he added that the resolution also allows for a minority report.

Mr. Gurule requested information from the City Charter regarding the 2000 population data by Council district.

A copy of Mr. Zaman's presentation is attached to these minutes.

Overview of the Process

Mr. Sharp reviewed the process and guidelines for collecting, presenting and managing data, and the milestone dates. Mr. Sharp discussed the census data that will be used for the preliminary plans. He stated that a database will be built using the estimated population data and preliminary plans will be developed based on that data and from input received by the Committee.

With regard to procedure and disclosure, Mr. Sharp pointed out that there may be a number of plans proposed by the Committee members and he wanted to make it clear that each Committee member will be credited with their plan suggestions. He added that plan proposals should go through him as a single repository, allowing him to input them into the system and present them to the Committee. As a matter of logistics, he feels it is simpler to have them all reside in one location.

Mr. Sharp stated the final 2010 census data can be released within a two month window, but he expects it to be released within the last two weeks of March.

Mr. Sharp stated that when the final census data is released, the Committee will then take that data and apply it to the preliminary plans and adjustments will be made to the plans based on constitutional and legal requirements. Once the final census data is received, the Committee will have fifteen days to submit their final redistricting recommendation to the City Council. He anticipates all preliminary work should be completed by March 1. He added that April 1 is the drop dead deadline for release of the final census data and that theoretically, the last day the Committee can give its recommendation to the City Council is April 15.

A copy of Mr. Sharp's outline is attached to these minutes.

Operational/Procedural Guidelines

Ms. Arnold-Jones asked if the voter registration information from the City Clerk was available and if that information is predictive enough. Mr. Sharp responded that the voter registration information is not predictive enough because voter registration patterns vary so much from one part of the city to another. He does not anticipate using voter registration data at all.

Ms. Ortsman asked about receiving information regarding redistricting guidelines. Mr. Stelzner responded that he would be happy to get the Committee an abbreviated version of the guidelines, as the entire version is extremely lengthy. He will provide it within the next couple of weeks. He will also get information to the Committee regarding where a full version can be obtained if any of the Committee members wish to see it in its entirety.

Mr. Martinez noted the need for population data in order to accomplish the work of the Committee. Mr. Sharp responded that he will have his estimated population redistricting database put together by the end of November, which will be a table at precinct level with all the demographics that the Committee will use to redistrict.

Mr. Karpoff raised several questions for discussion with regard to procedural operations and guidelines for the Committee to follow, including public involvement, media relations and gathering of information.

Ms. Lopez suggested that in addition to the Committee's regular meetings, there should be one meeting held in each Council District to involve and engage the public and receive their input. Mr. Barnett pointed out the compressed timeline and pointed out that the frequency of meetings and time commitment being discussed would be considerable. Mr. Johnson suggested consolidating a few of the community meetings, possibly combining 3 districts into one meeting.

Mr. Martinez stated that communication is very important when involving the public. He feels that Mr. Sharp should be the central repository of information.

Ms. Arnold-Jones suggested the meetings be held in the Chambers and include a public comment period. Ms. Mason pointed out that the City Council shares the usage of the Chambers with other entities, but staff would check with the Chambers scheduler in the morning.

Election of a Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Karpoff called for nominations for Chair. Mr. Stratton nominated Ms. Arnold-Jones. Ms. Lopez nominated Roberta M. Rael. Mr. Gurule moved that nominations cease and the Committee go to a vote, Mr. Stratton seconded. The motion to cease nominations passed unanimously. Ms. Ortega called the roll in order of Council District. Ms. Arnold-Jones was elected to serve as Chair on a 5-4 vote as follows:

Ms. Arnold Jones

Bob Gurule, District 4

Sander Rue, District 5

Janice Arnold-Jones, District 7

Hal Stratton, District 8

Mickey Barnett, District 9

Roberta M. Rael

Linda Lopez, District 1

Roberta M. Rael, District 2

Claudia Isaac, District 3

Michael Montoya, District 6

Mr. Karpoff called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Ms. Lopez nominated Ms. Rael. There were no other nominations. Mr. Gurule moved to cease nominations and that Ms. Rael be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rue. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Rael was elected to serve as Vice-Chair.

Next Steps

The Committee had discussion regarding which night of the week would be preferable to conduct their meetings. After discussion, the Committee decided to hold their meetings on Thursday's for the months of November and December and will revisit this matter at a later date. The Committee scheduled their next three meetings on November 18, December 2 and December 16.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.