

# Redistricting Group Minutes

March 7, 2012 - 4:45 p.m.  
(Following Charter Commission Meeting)  
Room 319 City Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Redistricting Group Members Present:** Clegg (Chair), Bad Heart Bull, Brown, Cohen, Connell, Dolan, Garcia, Heinle, Johnson, Kozak, Lazarus, Lickness, Massey, Metge, Peltola, Sandberg, Schwarzkopf, Thaden, Unni

**Redistricting Group Members Absent:** Cole (excused), Ferrara (excused), Gerdes, Richardson, Rubenstein (excused)

## 1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. Roll call was taken.

## 2. Adopt Agenda

*Clegg amended the agenda to add an Item 5.5 "Review Proposed Park District Maps".*  
The agenda, as amended, was adopted by unanimous consent.  
Absent - Cole, Ferrara, Gerdes, Richardson, Rubenstein.

## 3. Approve minutes of March 2, 2012 Redistricting Group Minutes of March 2, 2012

*Lazarus moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2012. Seconded.*  
Adopted upon a voice vote.  
Absent - Cole, Ferrara, Gerdes, Richardson, Rubenstein.

## 4. Chair's Report

Clegg stated that he had nothing to report other than what was on the agenda.

## 5. Receive and file all public comments received since the March 2, 2012 Redistricting Group meeting and enter them into the official record

*Schwarzkopf moved to receive and file all public comments received since the March 2, 2012 Redistricting Group meeting and the March 1, 2012 Public Hearing Journal.*  
Seconded.  
Adopted upon a voice vote.  
Absent - Cole, Ferrara, Gerdes, Richardson, Rubenstein.

### 5.5. Review Proposed Park District Maps

Clegg stated that Park District 2 had needed to grow and District 4 had needed to shrink in order to insure that all park districts came within the 5% requirement. The Park Board had voted to approve this map. The boundary between Districts 2 and 4 would be tweaked to follow the legislative line.

Vida Ditter, Bryn Mawr Neighborhood, was present and stated that the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood requested that the boundary between Districts 2 and 4 follow Bassett Creek.

Clegg explained that the boundary would follow the legislative line because if the line followed Bassett Creek, it would create a precinct which was too small.

*Lazarus moved to adopt the Park District map, with the change that the boundary between Districts 2 and 4 follow the legislative line, to forward to the March 20 and 21 public hearings. Seconded.*

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Cole, Ferrara, Gerdes, Richardson, Rubenstein.

### 6. Review Proposed Maps: Group input to update maps

Clegg summarized the proposed ward maps as follows:

#### Ward 1

- Small change in the Como area to conform to the legislative line in order to avoid a precinct that would be too small
- Neighborhood split - Como (along Como Ave)

#### Ward 2

- Loses a portion of Seward and Cedar Riverside
- Gains all of Longfellow and most of Cooper
- Includes University of Minnesota on both banks and Augsburg College
- Neighborhood splits - Seward and Cedar Riverside

#### Ward 3

- McKinley and Hawthorne were moved from Ward 3 to Northside wards
- To make up for that, Downtown East, part of Downtown West, and part of the North Loop were added
- Neighborhood splits - Downtown West and North Loop

#### Ward 4

- Added McKinley Neighborhood
- Conformed to legislative line in southwest corner of the ward to avoid a precinct that would be too small
- Neighborhood splits - Jordan and Willard Hay

**Ward 5**

- Added Hawthorne Neighborhood
- Continued to include some of the North Loop
- Neighborhood splits - North Loop, Jordan, and Willard Hay

**Ward 6**

- Includes Midtown Phillips, Phillips West, Ventura Village, and part of Seward, Cedar Riverside, and Elliot Park
- The effort was to bring the East African and Somali community of interest into the same ward
- Neighborhood splits - Elliot Park, Cedar Riverside, Seward

**Ward 7**

- Includes Loring Park, Lowry Hill, Kenwood, Cedar Isles, and Bryn Mawr
- Ward 7 lost neighborhoods adjacent to the river
- Neighborhood splits - Elliot Park, Downtown West
- The downtown wards are now 3 and 7

**Ward 8**

- Includes all of King Field, East Harriet
- Neighborhood splits - Lyndale, CARAG, and Northrup

**Ward 9**

- Includes all of East Phillips, Corcoran, Powderhorn, and Central
- Neighborhood splits - Standish and Lyndale
- Hiawatha Avenue is now divided between Wards 9, 2, and 12

Cohen commented that taking the Longfellow Neighborhood out of Ward 9 is a very dramatic change. It has been in Ward 9 for 60 years and should remain there. Hiawatha Avenue is now divided between Wards 9, 2, and 12. Both sides of Hiawatha should be in the same ward for light rail and economic planning and development, including the Lake Street Plan as well the 38th Street Plan. This map divided the Standish and Lyndale Neighborhoods. Relating to communities of interest, a traditional African American stronghold becomes divided with Central in Ward 9 and King Field in Ward 8.

**Ward 10**

- Adds Whittier Neighborhood which had been in Ward 6
- East Harriet no longer split
- Neighborhood split - CARAG

**Ward 11**

- Added Field and part of Keewaydin Neighborhood
- Neighborhood split - Keewaydin

**Ward 12**

- Added portion of Howe Neighborhood
- Standish Neighborhood is split in the old map and on the proposed map
- Howe and Cooper neighborhoods were split on the old map and neither is split on the proposed map
- Neighborhood split - Keewaydin, Standish

**Ward 13**

- East Harriet Neighborhood now in Ward 8 and no longer split

The proposed map creates a minority majority ward in Ward 5 and a minority coalition ward in Ward 6. Ward 9, with 47% minority population over 18, is not a coalition ward.

Thaden pointed out that the statistics do not include people who chose multiracial identity on their census form. If that population is added to the percentage in Ward 9, a coalition ward may be achieved.

*Sandberg moved to adopt the map as the proposed Ward map to forward to the March 20 and 21 public hearings. Seconded.*

Thaden spoke in favor of the motion. The Redistricting Group and the public need time to digest the map. The Redistricting Group can continue to consider comments, obtain more input at the public hearings, and then make changes rather than trying to make changes now on the fly.

Massey spoke in opposition to the motion. The Redistricting Group should have the flexibility to receive public input today, possibly give direction to the Operations Committee to make changes to the map, and meet again on Friday with a map to bring to the public hearings.

Unni spoke in opposition to the motion. There were a significant number of people present to provide public input who might convince the group to make an Operations Committee meeting necessary.

Peltola suggested that the group also discuss receiving public comment before voting on the motion.

Johnson spoke in favor the motion. She would like to give people more time to digest the maps and figure out how they will be affected before the public hearings.

Connell spoke in favor of the motion. There is no tweaking of the map. Every time a change is made to the map, there is a new map.

Heinle spoke in favor of the motion. It is important that the public have adequate time to view and comment on the map. Twenty-four hours is not a reasonable time frame to expect the public to review another map and provide comment.

Kozak spoke in favor of the motion. No one will be happy with the final product because some of the requests are contradictory. The Redistricting Group has tried to come up with a consensus based on comments received from the public and the Redistricting Group members. Voting to adopt the current map for the public hearings does not mean the group won't continue to listen to the public. After the public hearings, the final map may look considerably different.

Lickness spoke in favor of the motion. The Redistricting Group held two public hearings last week, allowed for public comment at their Friday meeting, as well as at the Operations Committee meeting. She believed every effort had been made to incorporate and accommodate the requests received.

Garcia stated that she would like to hear from the public before voting, but her tendency was to adopt the map for the public hearings. She would like to hear more prioritizing in what people want and what they are willing to give up.

Dolan spoke in favor of the motion. There will be changes to the map after the public hearings.

Metge stated that the Redistricting Group had to do due diligence and listen to those present who wanted to speak and suggested beginning the public comment period now rather than continue to discuss it.

## **Public Commentary**

Clegg stated that each group would be allowed to speak for a total of ten minutes; individuals would be given two minutes.

### **We All Win Group**

**a) Representative Susan Allen, 3505 16th Avenue South, on behalf of the Native American Community**, stated that she supported the We All Win map, also called the Native Opportunity Map, which will permit the Native American community to enter into the political process in a meaningful way. The American Indian community continues to suffer discrimination in education, employment, health, and politics. While the Redistricting Group has to take into consideration the Voting Rights Act, she hadn't seen the group really look at the cultural and economic realities of each minority group, especially the American Indian community which is small but very densely populated in this area. The group needs to look at those realities in relationship to the rest of the city and to other minority groups. She asked that the Redistricting Group give the We All Win proposal careful consideration.

**b) Sharon Day, 135 East 24th Street, Executive Director, Indigenous Peoples Task Force**, stated that when Native people were removed from the reservations through the Relocation Act in the 50's, they migrated to Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. Many groups migrated to the area, and as soon as people became economically viable, they moved out of the Phillips Neighborhood, but the Native people stayed. The boundary should include both sides of Franklin Avenue because most of their businesses are located along Franklin Avenue, as well as the Minnesota American Indian Center, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, and the Indigenous

Peoples Task Force. They need to be included in this process. This is an historic neighborhood. It was disheartening to hear the discussion about major minority groups. They are not a minority group; they are citizens of both their tribes and the United States. She supported the We All Win map. They also had the support of the Latino community.

**c) Michael Goze, 3210 18th Avenue South, CEO, American Indian Community Development Corporation**, stated that the Development Corporation had substantial holdings along Franklin Avenue, owning much of the property from Hiawatha to 15th Avenue. They are in the process of purchasing the Ancient Traders Market and have a new development at 24th and Bloomington which will serve 47 elders in the community. The Native Indian community is the largest stakeholder as far as land in that area, and they want to be heard.

**d) Sally Fineday, PO Box 217, Cass Lake Minnesota, Executive Director Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota**, stated that the American Indian community finally has Susan Allen as a voice at the Minnesota Legislature. In the past they have not had representation. They are not a minority. They are a small group, a sovereign nation, and should be considered in this effort.

**e) Jonathan, 2500 Cedar Avenue South**, stated that he represented the future of Minnesota, and that they were asking for the political opportunity to vote for their own people because these decisions not only affect the communities but also affect people around the state. He was not just representing the Latino community, but all minorities. People that don't live in these communities are making these decisions and that is not fair. He was advocating for fairness and supported the We All Win map.

**f) Francisco Segovia, 2529 13h Avenue South, Director, Waite House Center**, stated that he came to Minnesota in 1990 when hardly anyone spoke Spanish, and since then he has not felt represented. He wanted representation, not just for Latinos, but for all the voices that usually are not heard. It is important for them to diversify the body that represents Minneapolis. He asked for support for the We All Win map.

#### **Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting Group**

**g) Abdulkadir Warsame, 614 19th Avenue South, Executive Director, Riverside Plaza Tenants Association; Chair, Cedar Riverside NRP**, stated that he came to America in 2006. The East African community came from war, poverty, and an unfair, unjust system where many of his people died. He thanked the Redistricting Group for considering their input and for the time that they devoted to public commentary. He represented a fast-growing community in the city and the state. He represented a unified community, a culture, a community of interest that does not have a single representative in any of the legislative bodies in the city of Minneapolis or the state of Minnesota. Redistricting gives them an historic opportunity to get fair representation. His community resides around the neighborhoods of Cedar Riverside, Seward East, Elliot Park, Ventura Village, and the Phillips community. Throughout those neighborhoods they have created hundreds of small businesses, numerous non-profit organizations, and places of worship. They are a hardworking, dedicated community that believes in the American dream: that someone can come here with nothing and

become a millionaire. They were asking for fairness. That their community, with a high voter eligibility, be given an opportunity to vote, to have a representative and representation, someone that understands their needs and their problems. They were not asking to take anything away from any other community. They wanted fair redistricting for the Native American and Latino American communities, but they were also asking for what they need which is fair representation. Unlike the other communities, they don't have any representation anywhere in the state of Minnesota. They supported the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting map, but also believed the Redistricting Group's latest map was moving in the right direction. It unified most of their neighborhoods. It didn't give them everything they wanted, and they understood they would not get everything they wanted. It did give the East African community for the first time an opportunity ward where they can have their voice united. They asked the Redistricting Group to take time and reflect on all the public testimony and the vast data and information brought forward to see the change that has taken place in the city of Minneapolis and to consider that the East African community wants to participate, to vote, to be heard, and to be part of the process. Imagine the message the Redistricting Group will be sending by giving them this opportunity.

**h) Hussein Ahmed, 1501 6th Street**, stated that he believed this was a very crucial moment. The Somali, East African community has no representation in the areas they live, and they have lived here many years now. They have been voters and taxpayers. The East African community in the Cedar Riverside, Seward East, Ventura Village, and the Phillips community are mostly business owners, like himself. When he came to America he had a knapsack and now he was a homeowner and a small business owner. There are a lot of similar examples in his community. He asked the Redistricting Group to be fair, to consider their numbers, and to consider their needs as a community.

### Individuals

**i) Joseph Spangler, 2920 15th Avenue South**, asked that the Redistricting Group keep in mind the guidelines they were working under, one of which was to create the least amount of change to the wards. He had asked the Director of Common Cause to show how much wards had changed on all maps submitted to them. He also called attention to the term "circle of inclusion" or "compression ratio". The current Ward 6 map falls below what would be a national standard. There are only two other wards that are lower, one of which is divided by a major river and one divided by a lot of lakes. All the groups of interest play an important and vital role in their current wards. He asked the Redistricting Group to try not to put them some place where they can only have an influence in one ward to one council person.

**j) Sheldon Mains, 2718 East 24th Street, Past President, Seward Neighborhood Group**, stated that the Seward Neighborhood Group had not had an opportunity to take an action on the most recent map, so he was speaking on his own behalf. He was extremely disappointed in the proposed map. Since the 1970's they have been working to make Seward an inclusive neighborhood that works. They built a lot of affordable housing. In the 1980's when a private developer built Seward Towers East and West and wanted take a market rate, the neighborhood bought the Towers to keep them moderate and low income. It was a unanimous vote by the Development Committee

and the full Board to approve supportive housing for people with significant mental illness and 60 units of affordable housing by Common Bond. Two years ago there was a triple murder in their neighborhood and they worked to keep the neighborhood together. They held a vigil in 20 below zero weather with 800 people about evenly divided between East African and Caucasian community members. The one full-time staff member of the Seward Neighborhood Group is Somali. The proposed map goes against all of their work to make it an inclusive community that works together. The Seward Neighborhood felt ignored at the last meeting. He asked the Redistricting Group to consider all the comments heard. All the comments talking about splitting Seward into two wards have come from outside the Seward Neighborhood. All the comments from people who live in Seward Neighborhood have asked that it be kept in one ward.

**k) Larry Hiscock, 503 Irving Avenue North, Director and Lead Organizer, Harrison Neighborhood Association,** stated that they were very happy to see the latest maps which kept the Harrison Neighborhood whole. Their concerns related to splitting and diluting the voting power of the community. They were also happy to see that the Harrison Neighborhood was placed within Ward 5. There is a long history and connection with the rest of North Minneapolis. To have half the neighborhood placed in another ward would make it very hard for those folks to secure fair and just representation around the issues that are most important to them. They have seen positive progress around insuring northside representation of northside opportunity. This is about insuring that contiguous land with similar zoning should be in the same ward. The March 6 ward map is a significant improvement, returning the Harrison business community back to Ward 5 and includes the contiguous land of the Minneapolis Impound Lot that is only accessible through Harrison in North Minneapolis. They would also like to see the other city-owned land that is zoned commercial-residential included in Ward 5 because the Ward 5 demographics are used in fundraising and securing public financing for projects.

**l) Kevin Baumgartner, 4450 42nd Avenue South,** stated that he lived in the Hiawatha Neighborhood, which is part of the Longfellow community, and wanted to echo some of the comments that Commissioner Cohen had mentioned in terms of splitting up the Longfellow Neighborhood. Part of Longfellow Neighborhood has been in Ward 9 for a very long time. He supported having part of Longfellow continue being part of Ward 9. It's important to have different council membership representation. The Longfellow Community Council is an active organization and they appreciate the input they receive from their Ward 9 council member. He would like to see the Ward 9 boundary line pushed to the east to include at least part of Longfellow Neighborhood which would also provide continuity of representation on both sides of Hiawatha Avenue. He would also like to see Ward 9 pushed further into the Standish Neighborhood which has been split in the past.

**m) Malcolm, 2121 South 9th Street,** stated that he was present as an Urban Indian Elder. He works in advocacy and has his pulse on the community. He asked that Little Earth be joined in one ward or another. He wanted to see it unified. There is a Native council member who is not receptive, and a non-Native council member who is



receptive. He had spoken with the Director of Little Earth who likes the non-Native council member. He would like to see all of Little Earth in Ward 9.

**n) Vida Ditter, 404 Thomas Avenue South, member of the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association's Redistricting Committee**, speaking on the official position of the neighborhood board stated that the park district line is now south of the neighborhood line. There are no people in that strip of land between the neighborhood and park district lines. She requested that the ward line and the park district line both coincide with the neighborhood line so they can advocate for the territory within their neighborhood through single representation rather than having a small portion in someone else's ward with whom they have very little contact and influence.

Clegg noted that the reason the line was placed in that location was to follow the legislative line. Ms. Ditter stated that the neighborhood would be petitioning the legislative line.

**o) Carol Pass, 2536 18th Avenue South**, thanked the Redistricting Group for not splitting the Phillips Neighborhood down the middle as in the previous map. There are roughly 45 commercial blocks in the area, 39 of which are in Ward 6, and 10 of which are in Ward 9. This is not just about numbers and population, it's about economic opportunity. The map does not give the Ward 9 group enough economic opportunity. If it stays this way, the Ward 9 people will be making a sacrifice that is too great. This map should be changed. Population justice without economic justice is moot.

**p) Larry Madigan, 2609 Blaisdell Avenue**, stated that he was from the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. As a Native American he is very unhappy living in the Whittier Neighborhood because he is not allowed to practice his culture. He moved to urban Minneapolis for health reasons expecting to be appreciated and loved because of who he is, yet when he practices his culture, he is told he cannot do so in the building he lives in because it affects other people. There are multi-cultures in the building he lives in and they are allowed to live the way they please, but he can't as an American Indian. He was very offended by the policies in the building. He had met with the Whittier community but was disrespected because he was told that's the way it is. He hoped that people would open their eyes and realize that American Indians were the first people in this country and will always be the first people. He will continue to practice his culture regardless of what anyone else thinks.

**q) Iovita Francisco, 2529 13th Avenue South**, stated that her daughter attended Cristo Rey School on Lake Street. She used to live in Whittier and recently moved to Richfield. She knows and works in Phillips Neighborhood. She was from Mexico where some of the people don't have a voice. She wanted to keep Midtown Phillips in the area.

Discussion continued on the motion to adopt the map as the proposed Ward map to forward to the March 20 and 21 public hearings.

Massey spoke in opposition to the motion. The group has until Friday to determine if the current map is the one they want to put out to the public. Given the consequences and the long-term nature of redistricting, two more days to see if changes should be made is worthwhile.

Peltola spoke in favor of the motion. Discrete changes were not offered during the public commentary period. He didn't think the group would be able to create a very different map with just two days work.

Lickness reiterated that there had been two public hearings last week, public commentary at the Friday Redistricting Group meeting, and public commentary was also allowed at the Operations Committee meeting. The current map was created as a result of all that public commentary. She believed that her colleagues had made every attempt to accommodate two very passionate groups of people. No one is going to get everything they want.

Brown spoke in favor of the motion. He agreed with Commissioner Lickness. The current map represents a good composite, and he was impressed with the dialog and comments received over the past several weeks. He felt the Redistricting Group and the Operations Committee had made every attempt to address those matters. There would still be opportunities for additional public comment.

Schwarzkopf spoke in opposition to the motion. If the public hearings show that the Redistricting Group will have to make enormous changes to the current map and those changes are made, there are no more public hearings after that. If the Operations Committee met on Thursday and the Redistricting Group met on Friday to make additional changes, then after the public hearings the changes to the map would probably be minor.

Cohen spoke in opposition to the motion. It would be wise to use the next two days to improve upon something that will be in effect for ten years.

Heinle agreed that the Redistricting Group should make whatever improvements they could to the map, but he was struggling to see what types of changes could be made tomorrow to discuss at a meeting the next day.

Clegg stated that if the group wanted to change the map before the public hearings, they would need to give the Operations Committee direction as to what they wanted changed on the map.

Connell stated that he appreciated Ms. Massey's and Commissioner Schwarzkopf's positions, but aside from the Longfellow issue, which is a pretty big issue, he hadn't heard any particular thing that he could crystalize into a change in the map. Moving Longfellow would create a new map.

Massey stated that she would also like to see if the division of Seward was necessary. The input from Seward was significant. She had also heard via written comments that it was a concern that Ward 8 stretched more east-to-west than north-to-south dividing the

traditional African American community in that ward on which the Redistricting Group had not deliberated very much.

Garcia stated that she would like to look at putting Midtown Phillips into Ward 9 and putting all of Elliot Park into Ward 6.

*The Sandberg motion to adopt the map as the proposed Ward map to forward to the March 20 and 21 public hearings was adopted by a show of hands.*

Absent - Cole, Ferrara, Gerdes, Johnson, Lazarus, Metge, Richardson, Rubenstein, Thaden.

Clegg announced that the Operations Committee meeting scheduled for March 8 and the Redistricting Group meeting scheduled for March 9 were cancelled. An Operations Committee meeting would be scheduled for some time next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Peggy Menshek  
Redistricting Group Coordinator