

Redistricting Group Minutes

March 26, 2012 - 2:00 p.m.
Room 319 City Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

Redistricting Group Members Absent: Gerdes, Johnson (excused)

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. Roll call was taken.

2. Adopt Agenda

Ferrara moved adoption of the agenda, as amended to receive Public Commentary following Item 5. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Gerdes, Johnson, Kozak.

3. Approve minutes of March 22, 2012

Lazarus moved approval of the minutes of March 22, 2012. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Gerdes, Johnson, Kozak.

4. Chair's Report

Clegg explained the procedure followed throughout the redistricting process summarizing the Redistricting Rules, Principles, Factors to Consider in Redistricting, as well the Voting Rights Act requirements.

5. Receive and file all public comments received since the March 22, 2012 Redistricting Group meeting and enter them into the official record

Sandberg moved to receive and file all public comments received since the March 22, 2012 Redistricting Group meeting. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Gerdes, Johnson.

Cohen stated that a misunderstanding had arisen regarding the nature of a discussion he had had with Mark Hoffman regarding a development on Hiawatha Avenue. That misunderstanding had been resolved and comments submitted by Alondra Cano would be withdrawn. Cole stated that the comments should remain in the public record. Cohen stated that if Ms. Cano's statement withdrawing the comment is subsequently received, it would be added to the record, but her original comments would still be part of the record.

Public Commentary

- a) Mariano Espinoza, 3120 12th Avenue**, stated that two hundred years ago a little monster appeared in Boston. Today is the 200th anniversary of gerrymandering. The Redistricting Group has a chance to rewrite history by doing the right thing or unleashing the monster in the communities. This is an opportunity to make sure that all voices are heard by recognizing the Native American, Latino, and Somali communities. It is about having opportunities for all.
- b) Hussein Ahmed, 1501 6th Street**, stated that the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting had been a fixture at Redistricting Group meetings which showed their commitment and interest in the outcome of the process. At the end of the process, despite the outcome, everyone is American. The proposed map did not give the East African community everything they wanted, but they knew the Redistricting Group could not please everyone.
- c) Jovita Francisco, 2529 13th Avenue South**, stated that she worked in a South Minneapolis community center. She was present for her community, not for herself. She displayed a photograph of the 35W bridge collapse. Her community felt broken like the bridge.
- d) Verlena Matey Keke, 4038 3rd Avenue**, stated that she applauded the fact that the Redistricting Group had moved the line between Wards 8 and 9 to include a greater number of the Black community in Ward 8. She also wanted to comment on the inclusion of East African, Somali, and African American in the category "Black" in the census statistics. They are different people with a different history. She applauded the East African and Somali community for participating in democracy. African Americans have fought for many years for the inclusion of everyone to be represented. However, it seemed that African Americans were being obscured in this process.
- e) Mike Goze, 3210 18th Avenue South, CEO, American Indian Development Corporation**, stated that although the American Indian population is not high, they have still managed to elect an American Indian City Council Member, Robert Lilligren, as well as Representative Susan Allen. It is not about the number of people, it is the quality of the people they elect to office. The key is to elect quality people to make the community work for everyone.
- f) Doris Christopher, 4433 Oakland Avenue**, stated that she was satisfied with the current map as long as the institutions were left in Ward 8 such as Sabathani and the Minneapolis Spokesman.
- g) Clyde Bellecourt, American Indian Movement**, stated that his spirit name was Thunder Before the Storm. When he was born, they were forbidden to have Indian names. They were forbidden to pray, sing, dance, or carry on their own traditional way of life. Relocation for them stops here in Ward 9. They are not going to let it happen again. They are not going to let others make decisions for the Native people. They have a city council representative that they waited all of their lives for. The proposed map will change that.
- h) Josefina Franco, 3845 18th Avenue South**, stated that her son attended Anderson School and it used to be in Ward 9. There are many Spanish-speaking children in Anderson School. She asked that it be kept in Ward 9.

i) Carrie Anne Johnson, 1870 East 26th Street, stated that there are so many languages and this culture is sucking them dry and taking them away. This process is going to continue the same mono-culture. There has not been sufficient time for anyone to be involved or aware of the redistricting process. It has not made it to the people who are in charge of the new NRP. Longfellow should not be split in half. It should remain part of Ward 9. She supported the We All Win map but she would change it to make sure Corcoran stayed together.

j) Windy Downwind (sp?), American Indian Movement, stated that Native Americans were taken off the reservation and put in Minneapolis during the Relocation Act. The Southside has always been the Native community. The Redistricting Group did not talk about Natives. He had a lot of dislike for the city organization.

k) Marque Jensen, 1714 Irving Avenue North, stated that he worked with the Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network and supported the We All Win Map. The Native American community is being very much left out of this process. It would be a great opportunity to keep together the Native American interests along Franklin and not splinter it apart. He stood together in solidarity with the Latino, African American, Native American, and East African communities,

l) Sharon Day, 1335 East 33rd Street, stated that she had a petition with 66 signatures from people from the Whittier Neighborhood stating that they wished to be in Ward 6. She supported the We All Win map which was better for the Native Americans. She felt the Native American people were invisible.

m) Sheik Habli (sp?), 419 Cedar Avenue, stated that he had been a Cedar Riverside committee member for ten years. No matter how the map turns out, everyone is all one community. The 35W bridge collapse was a tragedy. This is not a tragedy. This is democracy that people can participate in. His people are new to democracy and want to have a voice in an elected office.

n) Scarlett Lopez, 3028 Park Avenue South, stated that the Phillips community is a strong community of Latinos. She felt like her community was not being heard. She had gathered 253 petitions and submitted them for the record.

o) Kelly Trius, 1870 East 26th Street, stated that she moved to East Philips because it was a diverse neighborhood and from diversity comes strength, new ideas, and change. She asked that the community be recognized and be allowed to have a voice.

p) Larry Hiscock, 503 Irving Avenue North, stated that the Harrison Neighborhood Association was committed to promoting racial and economic equity. They asked that the Harrison Neighborhood be kept whole, in Ward 5, and that opportunity be kept within Ward 5. The Redistricting Group recently changed the southern boundary removing publicly owned land from Ward 5 and placing it in Ward 7 supporting an unjust dynamic that has been going on for years in which the city fundraises off of Ward 5 disparities, but places decision making authority over those publicly owned lands in Ward 7.

- q) Vida Ditter, 404 Thomas Avenue South**, stated that she had been before the Redistricting Group every time they allowed public comment to request that Bryn Mawr Neighborhood be kept intact within Ward 7 and Park District 4. She was impressed by the patience of the Redistricting Group and the efforts made to accommodate as many requests as possible. She thanked the Redistricting Group for their consideration.
- r) Marlene Rojas, 2425 Elliot Avenue**, stated that it is not about individual communities, it is about all communities. It is about people and maintaining communities together. If the Redistricting Group doesn't make the right decision, they will have to wait another ten years. This can happen today.
- s) Shirley Heyer, 2426 13th Avenue South**, stated that Midtown Phillips is currently 40% Hispanic, 19% White, 20% African American, with a significant portion of Native American population. Midtown wants to stay whole in Ward 9 because they represent a greater portion of Spanish speaking people.
- t) Jose Luis Villasenor, 2704 18th Avenue**, stated that the We All Win map is an opportunity map for Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, and Somalis. He urged the Redistricting Group to look at the map and numbers and not be driven by emotion.
- u) Conor Hatch, 3901 10th Avenue South**, stated that he has noticed the government system try to get more and more based on what they need at a given moment. The redistricting time is the moment for them to see the opportunities in order to get what they need at this moment. The Redistricting Group should listen to the people that live in the communities and not only listen to polices. It is unjust and the Redistricting Group should think about justice for the people in the community.
- v) Carol Pass, 2536 18th Avenue South**, stated that the Redistricting Group seemed to concentrate on only certain community groups and help them have a place in the political process. However, they have split the densest Latino population. The Redistricting Group honored the African American's desire to keep Sabathani and some of their institutions in Ward 8. Ward 6 has many business areas and the Latinos were left with very little business opportunity in Ward 9.
- w) Mary Merrill Anderson, 1144 Cedar View Drive**, stated that it was great that the Ward 8 line was moved to 36th Street, although she supported the inclusion of all of the Central Neighborhood in Ward 8. Even though the city is 40% people of color, there are only two wards with a majority of people of color of voting age. She asked the Redistricting Group to look at that issue as they drew their lines.
- x) Mike Dean, Executive Director, Common Cause**, stated that in listening to the comments, it felt like 2001 was playing itself over again. There were similar concerns outlined ten years ago. The Charter Commission had put forward a series of changes to try to minimize those challenges. As they move forward, the Redistricting Group will be challenged to make changes to the map and needed to look forward to ten years from now and discuss what can be done differently next time. Not enough steps were taken partly because of budgetary issues where no money was dedicated to engage or educate the public on the topic. There should also be reforms at the state level so that cities have more than 60 days to draw maps.

y) **Pat Bellanger, 2100 Bloomington Avenue**, stated that she represented the International Indian Treaty Council, part of the United Nations. The Redistricting Group needs to understand that they have sovereign rights. Also, her community needs to continue to hold what they have left and have their own representatives to bring their message to the rest of the table. When redistricting is done, her community loses every time. They have lost most of their funding for things they have been fighting for. She did not want to see her community cut up any more. With the We All Win Map, they would at least have a chance to be at the table.

z) **Jennifer Godinez, 1500 Lake Street**, stated that they do not have another ten years. The Latino community has created great assets, great wealth. The Redistricting Group has the opportunity to make history to create three opportunity wards. Minneapolis is a multicultural, multiracial society.

aa) **Malia Burkhart, 3501 15th Avenue South**, stated that she was half-Japanese, half-German American and stood in solidarity with Latino, African American, Somali, and Native American communities. There is a tendency of people who are the winners of the wars to be the ones who get to write history and draw the map. The face of the city is changing, and everyone should be represented.

bb) **Marlene Helgen (sp?), 1515 East 23rd Street**, stated that she was Pastor of All Nations Indian Church. There is the possibility to provide fairer representation for the city. She asked that the map be redrawn to include the hard and thoughtful work of many of the communities that have addressed the Redistricting Group. She urged the Redistricting Group to remove the word "minority" from their conversations.

6. Review and approve Operations Committee Draft Ward Map

Operations Committee March 23 Map

Clegg summarized the changes made to the map at the March 23 Operations Committee meeting. Most changes were made to eliminate problems caused by legislative, ward, and park district lines being too close together creating very small precincts. Also, the West Calhoun Neighborhood was transferred from Ward 13 to Ward 7, and the boundary between Wards 3 and 7 was moved from 4th Street to 7th Street.

Thaden moved to adopt the March 23 Operations Committee map as the base map, with the exception of the West Calhoun change and the boundary change between Wards 3 and 7.

Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Metge recorded as voting "no".

Absent - Gerdes, Johnson.

West Calhoun Neighborhood

The Operations Committee had transferred the West Calhoun Neighborhood from Ward 13 to Ward 7 because Ward 13 was high in population and Wards 7 and 3 were low. Moving West Calhoun into Ward 7 enabled the adjustment of the Ward 7/3 border to pick up population in Ward 3.

Sandberg moved to adopt the transfer of the West Calhoun Neighborhood from Ward 13 to Ward 7. Seconded.

Peltola stated that he objected to the change on both procedural and substantive grounds. It was his understanding that the scope of direction from the Redistricting Group to the Operations Committee had been quite narrow. The topic of moving the West Calhoun Neighborhood from Ward 13 to 7 had been discussed at the previous Redistricting Group meeting and rejected. He viewed making the change at the Operations Committee meeting as a revisiting of the decision of the group. On substantive grounds, West Calhoun is a relatively new neighborhood with two major thoroughfares and some of the highest traffic volumes in the entire metropolitan area.

Ferrara agreed with Peltola that the change should not have been made. He also believed that a better map did not have a zero deviation in all wards. The $\pm 5\%$ should be used to make adjustments to accommodate the public comments.

Lazarus also believed that the Operations Committee erred in moving West Calhoun from Ward 13 to 7. He lived in Ward 7 and did not think there was a lot of commonality between Ward 7 and the West Calhoun area. Also, the West Calhoun residents will have no chance to comment since the change was made so late in the process.

Connell stated that given the compressed timeline he did not find it problematic that the Operations Committee made this change subject to review by the Redistricting Group. However, he could support keeping West Calhoun in Ward 13 as long as it met the population requirements and if the group could come up with a change he could support with respect to the line through Downtown West.

The Sandberg motion to adopt the transfer of the West Calhoun Neighborhood from Ward 13 to Ward 7 lost by a show of hands.

Absent - Gerdes, Johnson.

Downtown West Neighborhood

Heinle moved to adjust the Ward 3/7 boundary to include more of the Downtown West Neighborhood in Ward 7. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Gerdes, Johnson.

Keewaydin Neighborhood

Kozak moved that the Ward 12 boundary be moved from 52nd to 53rd Street in order to keep Keewaydin Park in Ward 12. Seconded.

Adopted by a show of hands.

Absent - Gerdes, Johnson.

Reconsideration of March 23 Operations Committee Map

Metge moved to reconsider the March 23 Operations Committee map. Seconded.

Metge stated that the Redistricting Group had heard testimony that Franklin Avenue is under a great revitalization thanks to the Native American community. The March 23 map splits Eat Street between Wards 7 and 10. The Global Market on Chicago and Lake was put into Ward 6 away from the Latino community in Ward 9. Midtown Phillips has taken action saying they want to remain in Ward 9. The March 23 map takes away the opportunity for a third area to have minority representation.

Garcia displayed a map proposed by the We All Win group and asked the Redistricting Group to consider the boundaries set forth in that map.

Ferrara stated that in the Redistricting Group's March 23 map, the Hispanic population in Ward 9 is 31.5%. In the We All Win map, it is 33% while at the same time decreasing the East African opportunity in Ward 6. He also felt that having more than one council member represent an area was beneficial. He spoke against the motion because he had not yet heard any specific proposed adjustments to the existing map.

Garcia asked if the Redistricting Group thought they knew what was better for the community or whether they would listen to the community. The March 23 Redistricting Group map may have higher concentrations of non-White population, but the question remained would those blocs vote together? The community is saying they wouldn't, and the We All Win map makes more sense from the community's point of view in terms of how they vote. Commissioner Ferrara's preference for having two council members represent an area also presumes that they would vote the same way. The likelihood of two council members voting the same way on an issue is the same as two communities of color voting the same way.

Bad Heart Bull stated that he did not like the Redistricting Group's proposed Ward 6. The group has heard considerable public comment that it is potentially forsaking multiple minorities for one or two. There is a compromise to be made with all of the communities. He would support further discussion and further redrawing of the lines.

Connell stated that he thought the differences between the two maps were minimal. He asked what specifically should be changed on the Redistricting Group's March 23 map.

Metge noted that the We All Win map included Whittier entirely in Ward 6, putting Eat Street entirely in Ward 6. Also, when so many people show up to testify, it tells her something is wrong with the process and it should start over.

Lickness stated that the Whittier Neighborhood has made it clear that they want to be in one ward although they didn't care which ward.

Clegg noted that the We All Win map increases the Hispanic population in Ward 9 by 1.5%, decreases the Black population in Ward 6 by 7%, splits neighborhoods, and splits the University of Minnesota. The We All Win map has not been before the community at public hearings. He felt that to make such major changes at the last Redistricting Group meeting would be a mistake.

Richardson stated that she liked a lot of the We All Win map, but there was also the issue of voice for the traditional African American community. The We All Win map did not address that.

Sandberg spoke in opposition to the motion due to the fact that she had heard no specific changes proposed.

Rubenstein spoke in favor of the motion in order to have an opportunity to make adjustments where it might make a difference.

Massey spoke in favor of the motion. The We All Win Map includes the Native American corridor in a very different position. The Redistricting Group's March 23 map is problematic and could be tweaked to try to increase the percentage of Latinos in Ward 9.

Peltola spoke in favor of the motion in order to see if it was possible to make changes that could benefit more communities.

Kozak spoke in favor of the motion in order to allow everyone to be heard and to see how changes affect the populations.

The Metge motion to reconsider the March 23 Operations Committee map was adopted. Yeas, 14; Nays, 8 as follows:

Yeas - Bad Heart Bull, Cole, Connell, Garcia, Heinle, Kozak, Massey, Metge, Peltola, Richardson, Rubenstein, Sandberg, Thaden, Unni.

Nays - Brown, Cohen, Dolan, Ferrara, Lazarus, Lickness, Schwarzkopf, Clegg.

Absent - Gerdes, Johnson.

Massey suggested moving the boundary in Midtown Phillips west to Chicago Avenue and also moving the boundary in Longfellow to the west. The map was changed and the Latino population in Ward 9 increased from 31% to 33%.

Cohen stated that Longfellow had been in Ward 9 for about 60 years, and he was opposed to taking it completely out of Ward 9.

Cole had to leave during the discussion, but noted that she liked the direction the Redistricting Group was taking and if Ward 6 was able to remain above 40% Black population, she could support the change. If not, she would be against the change.

Following discussion, changes were made to March 23 map which included the following:

- All of the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood was moved to Ward 9
- The Ward 9 boundary in the Longfellow Neighborhood was moved west to Minnehaha Avenue
- The boundary in Ward 6 at 3rd St was moved north to Bluff Street
- The portion of the Stevens Square-Loring Heights Neighborhood west of Nicollet Avenue was moved into Ward 7
- A portion of Elliot Park was moved to Ward 7
- The Ward 6 boundary in Seward was moved from 22nd to 24th Street

Ferrara clarified that it appeared that it was not just about population, but it was also about locations of significance to certain communities. He noted that the Redistricting Group had altered several neighborhoods at the last minute and many people wouldn't know or have an opportunity to comment on these changes. The Redistricting Group was criticized ten years ago for doing the same thing. It is a bad process and the East African community is not being served by these changes. He would support the revised map, even though he felt the Redistricting Group was making too many changes at the last minute.

Cohen supported the original March 23 map due to the fact that there were not any substantive improvements in the revised map.

Metge also had concerns about process, but felt that the Redistricting Group was listening to the people and reflecting their wishes. Stevens Square had come to meetings twice to state that they wanted Nicollet Avenue in Ward 6, but they were unable to address the Redistricting Group. The Latino community has been before the Redistricting Group consistently asking that Midtown Phillips be in Ward 9. Franklin Avenue is the heart of the Native American community and they asked to be in Ward 6. The revised map reflected those requests.

Rubenstein preferred the revised map. It reflected the comments and interests of the community.

Massey supported the revised map. The shifts that have been made accommodated a relatively small increase in the Latino population in Ward 9 with a small decrease in opportunity for the East African community in Ward 6.

Schwarzkopf stated that he was concerned about the process. Changes have been made that the public wasn't aware of. The original March 23 map was a good compromise between what both groups wanted.

Connell respected the concerns of the members who had served on the Redistricting Commission in the past; however, if the revised map was legal under the Voting Rights Act, the Charter, and all applicable state laws, then he could support it.

Thaden noted that the East African community had been present at the meetings since the beginning of the process, and he felt the Redistricting Group had done them a disservice in the Midtown area.

Metge stated that she was on the Midtown Phillips Board and would be happy to bring the Redistricting Group's concerns forward.

Lazarus stated that he didn't like the process but he did not think the Redistricting Group had materially prejudiced the East African community nor had they materially benefited the Latino community. The Redistricting Group had listened to the Latino community and the areas that were changed on the map were important to them, not for the voting population but for the demographics of the area.

Kozak stated that he thought the process was designed to be messy, but he had participated in the redistricting process twice before and this had been the most open process he had ever been involved with. He would support the changes, and would sacrifice a few percentage points in the Black population to benefit the Latinos.

Bad Heart Bull stated that he felt like the Indian community always had to choose the lesser of two evils. There are a lot of reasons that cause them to be in the position of having a smaller population. There was grave concern about the Somali community coming into a historically American Indian community and displacing them or taking what little power the community does have. From his community's perspective, it is history repeating itself and yet again the Indians are kind of overtaken. He understood that the Redistricting Group had to be fair to everybody but wanted his comments on the record.

Sandberg stated that she appreciated the downtown split and thought it was an improvement for those wards. She would have preferred to see a compromise on Phillips. She was concerned about some of the drops in numbers but overall thought that the revised map was probably a better reflection of both what the Redistricting Group wanted to do and what the people wanted to do.

Clegg stated that he would support the revised map. He thought the changes made were around the edges and not that significant. The reason he was not enamored of the We All Win map was because that map dropped the African American population in Ward 6 from 42% to 25%, and he did not think that was acceptable. The revised map is acceptable although it is probably not everything the Somali/East African community or the Hispanic and Native American community wanted.

Connell requested a legal opinion regarding the map prior to the vote.

Carol Bachun, Assistant City Attorney, stated that the Redistricting Group had looked at all the Charter requirements, case law, whether the new wards were twice as long as wide, compactness, whether each ward was within $\pm 5\%$ of the population, and keeping all wards contiguous. With respect to the Voting Rights Act, the courts require keeping the minority majority in Ward 5. With the new map, the combined Black and Hispanic voting age population equaled 50.38% in Ward 6 and 50.43% in Ward 9, creating two minority coalition wards.

Garcia moved to substitute the revised map for the March 23 Operations Committee map. Seconded.

Adopted. Yeas, 15; Nays, 5 as follows:

Yeas - Bad Heart Bull, Connell, Garcia, Heinle, Kozak, Lazarus, Lickness, Massey, Metge, Peltola, Richardson, Rubenstein, Sandberg, Unni, Clegg.

Nays - Cohen, Dolan, Ferrara, Schwarzkopf, Thaden.

Absent - Brown, Cole, Gerdes, Johnson.

Ferrara moved to forward the revised map to the Charter Commission with the recommendation that it be adopted as the final ward map. Seconded.

Adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

Absent - Brown, Cole, Gerdes, Johnson.

Massey stated that she would like the Redistricting Group to have a discussion about what they had learned from the process and what they might consider changing in the future so there is a record when redistricting takes place again in ten years.

Clegg thanked the Redistricting Group, especially the Advisory Group members, and stated that he planned to hold such a meeting in the future.

7. Review Park District Map and recommend transmission to the Park Board for comment.

Clegg stated that the Operations Committee had slightly adjusted a few park boundaries to fix precinct problems, but otherwise made no changes to the Park District map. After the Redistricting Group tentatively adopts the Park District map, the Charter Commission will share it with the Park Board and allow time for comment. He did not intend to call another meeting of the Redistricting Group unless the Park Board requested significant changes.

Schwarzkopf moved to tentatively adopt the Park District map and recommend to the Charter Commission transmittal of the map to the Park Board for comment. Seconded.

Adopted by a show of hands.

Absent - Brown, Cole, Gerdes, Johnson, Lickness.

Cohen moved to adjourn. Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Brown, Cole, Gerdes, Johnson, Lickness.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Peggy Menshek
Redistricting Group Coordinator