



REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES
JUNE 30, 2021
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission meeting was held in Council Chambers, 212 S. Bond Street, Bel Air, MD on June 30, 2021. It was called to order at 6:04 PM by Mustafa Sidik, Chair. All members were in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Erik Robey made a motion to approve the minutes from June 2, 2021. James Thornton seconded. The minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

3. Guest Testimony

a. Mayor and City Council of Aberdeen

Mr. Adam Hiob, City of Aberdeen Council Member and representative for the Mayor of Aberdeen, came forward to discuss Aberdeen's concerns regarding precinct boundaries. He said he will email the information to the Commission. Wayne Goddard made comments and asked that Aberdeen provide a map that indicated the changes they would like to see. James Thornton, Christine Brecknell and Erik Robey had questions and Mr. Hiob responded. Mustafa Sidik also had questions and Mr. Hiob answered.

b. Mayor and Town Council of Bel Air

Ms. Amy Chmielewski, Mayor of Bel Air, came forward to present. She provided the Commissioners with a map. The map is attached to these minutes. Jesse Bane, Town Administrator, Donna Kahoe and Erin Hughes, Town Commissioners, were also in attendance. James Thornton, Erik Robey, and Christine Brecknell had questions and Ms. Chmielewski responded.

c. Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace

Mr. William Martin, Mayor of Havre de Grace, came forward to present. Also in attendance was Jason Robertson, Carolyn Zinner, and Casi Boyer, City of Havre de Grace Council Members; Adam Razinski, City of Havre de Grace; and Steve Gamatoria, Director of Administration. A letter from Mr. Martin was distributed to the Commissioners and Mr. Martin read a portion of it aloud. The letter is attached to these minutes. Wayne Goddard made comments and asked Mr. Martin to provide a map that indicates the changes they would like to see. Mr. Martin said he would. Christine Brecknell, Erik Robey, and James Thornton had questions and Mr. Martin answered.

4. Commission Business Meeting

a. Goals and Guiding Principles Document

Wayne Goddard gave the history of the creation of the Goals and Guiding Principles document. He read the document aloud. Erik Robey made a motion to approve the

document; James Thornton seconded. It was approved unanimously. Mr. Thornton recognized Mr. Goddard for his work in creating the document.

b. Communications Update

Mustafa Sidik spoke about a meeting that he had with Cindy Mumby, Director of Government and Community Relations with Harford County, in an effort to get information out regarding the Commission. She provided her press contacts with Mr. Sidik for the Commissioners to use for press releases. Mr. Sidik said that the Commission would create its own FaceBook page to use to get information out to the public. Mr. Thornton made comments. Mr. Sidik made additional comments regarding the future of communications from the Commission. Wayne Goddard made comments. Mr. Sidik responded to Mr. Goddard's concerns. Erik Robey, Wayne Goddard and Christine Brecknell made additional comments. Mr. Sidik suggested tabling the issue and each Commissioner write up their concerns. Mr. Thorton had further comments on the Commission not being able to use the County's resources, such as their FaceBook page, for communication. Mr. Kearney made comments. Mr. Goddard made a motion to preclude any Commissioner from establishing any social media representing the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission. Mr. Thornton seconded. Mr. Robey made comments and suggested bringing in Ms. Mumby and then make a decision later. It was unanimously approved that no Councilmanic Redistricting Commissioner would create a FaceBook page and they will table the issue until a later date.

Mr. Thornton suggested that two Commissioners meet with Cindy Mumby's office. He felt she should be given the opportunity to present to the Commissioners, if she so wished. Mr. Sidik said they will set up a meeting with Cindy Mumby. Mr. Kearney asked to know which Commissioners would attend the meeting; it was decided it would be Mr. Sidik and Mr. Thornton.

c. Schedule of Meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for August 18, 2021.

5. Commissioner's Introduction and Comments

6. Public Comment

1. Adam Shellenbarger, 409 Garnett Road, Joppa, MD

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Approved _____

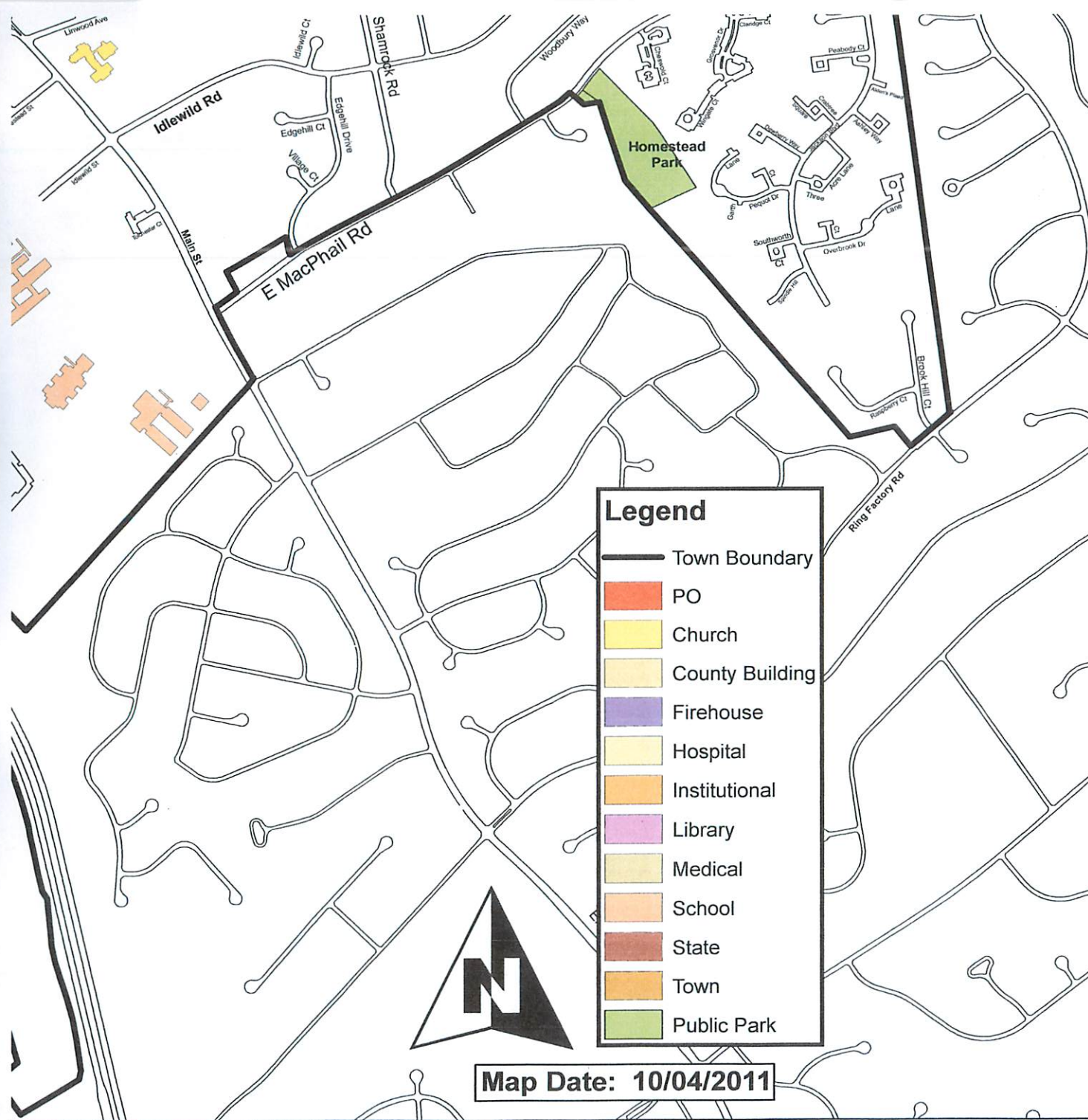


Chairperson

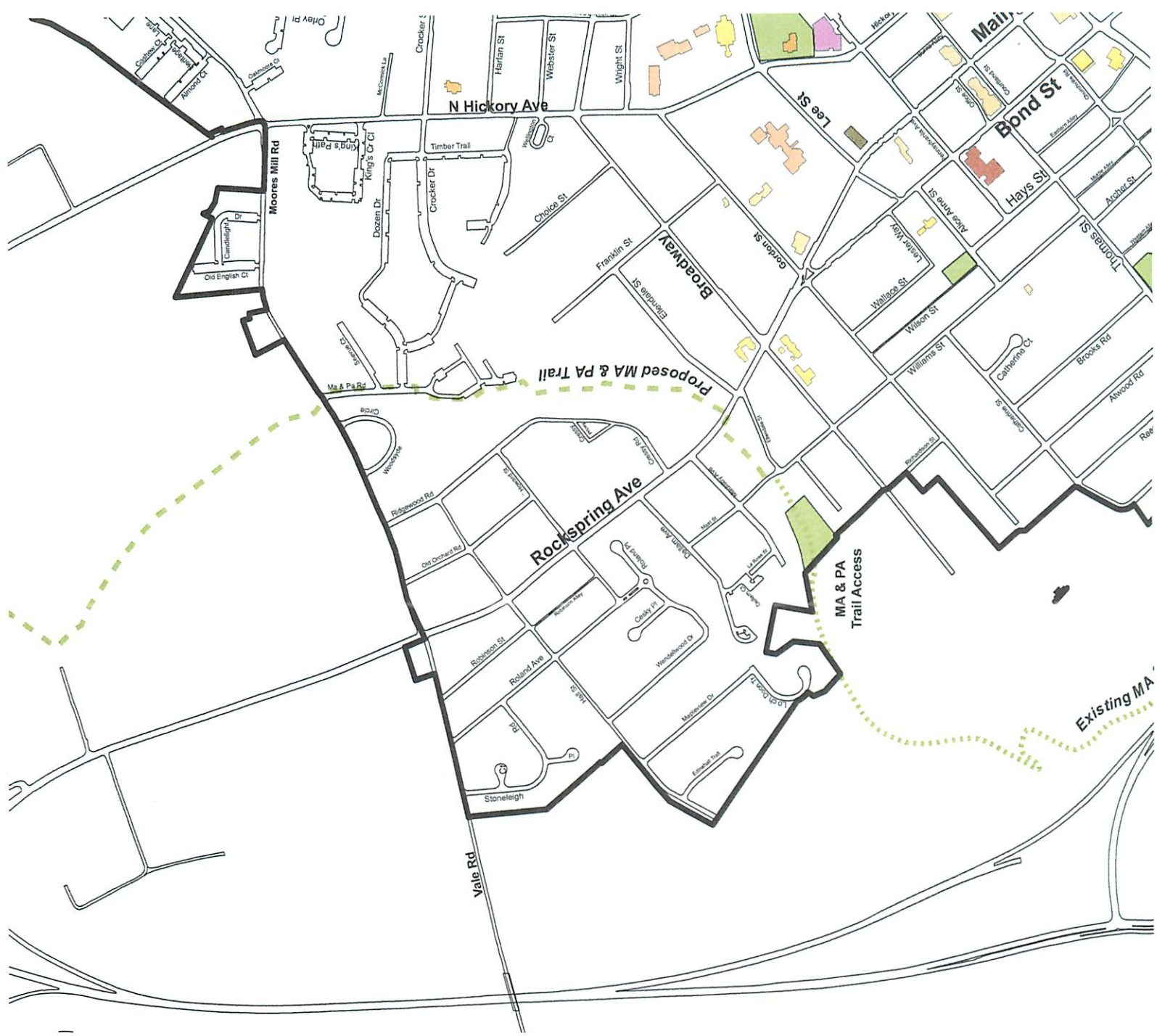
8/18/21
Date

Town of Bel Air











CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

William T. Martin

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Mustafa Sidik
Chair, 2021 Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission
212 S. Bond Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

RE: 2021 Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting

Charman Sidik and the Honorable Members of the 2021 Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission:

As this body continues its essential mission, the City is eager to work with the commission and asks that it consider the importation relationship Havre de Grace has with the rest of the county. Havre de Grace's rich history, diversity, and proximity to the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay make it strategically one of the most important communities in the county. The recent investments and policy decisions the City has made over the last five years have produced positive county-wide results, specifically in the areas of tourism and water infrastructure, which have positioned Havre de Grace as a premium regional tourism destination and allowed the City to expand its sale and distribution of water beyond its corporate limits.

The City understands that much of the work you have been tasked with is currently stalled as we await the final data from the U.S Census Bureau. However, anecdotally it is known that over the past decade, Havre de Grace, along with the rest of the U.S. Route 40 corridor has seen significant population growth, housing development, and business investment. Because of these factors, the City believes that it would be in the best interest of all of Harford County if the commission builds its redistricting map by first focusing on the U.S. Route 40 corridor and moving outwards in an east to west direction.

We ask while you wait for this data and begin and develop parameters for the process, the Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission adopts the following concepts into its decision-making process.

Contiguity Requirement: The City urges the commission to examine closely the requirement that districts be contiguous. The City understands that using Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) as a connector between the northern and western part of district F technically meets the contiguity

requirement. However, we believe that the use of APG in this manner should be reconsidered and agree with Mr. Lloyd, who testified before the commission on May 19, 2021, and described this as “not ideal.”

APG being used as a connector has led to the current district F having the most uniquely shaped district in Harford County and has led to APG being divided into separate districts.

Attention To The U.S. Route 40 Corridor: This area of the county has been described as Harford Counties’ Mainstreet and serves as a gateway into the county. The U.S. Route 40 Corridor has seen substantial growth over the last decade, and it is anticipated this growth will continue and lead to an even more prosperous Harford County. The City recommends the commission builds its redistricting map by first focusing on the U.S. Route 40 corridor and moving outwards in an east to west direction.

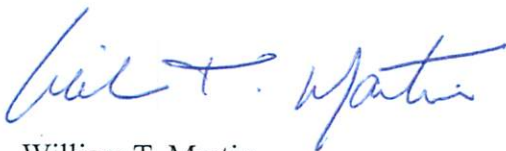
Anticipated Future Municipal Growth Areas Outside Of Existing Corporate Limits: The City believes that the commission should factor into its decision-making the future growth of municipalities through annexation.

Dividing Municipalities: The City recommends that municipalities should remain intact and not be divided into two districts.

Combining Municipalities: The City does not believe the commission should automatically set a requirement to place the three municipalities into separate districts. Instead, the City recommends that when the commission considers this matter, it takes into account the common interest and resources municipalities may share.

School Boundaries: The City recommends the commission draw councilmanic districts as closely as possible with school districts.

Respectfully,



William T. Martin
Mayor, City of Havre de Grace