



REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

1. Call to Order

The Councilmanic Redistricting Commission meeting began at 6:00 PM with all members in attendance.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Erik Robey made a motion to approve the minutes from September 13, 2020. Jim Thornton seconded. The September 13, 2021 minutes were approved with an unanimous vote.

3. Comments

Adam Rybczynski with the City of Havre de Grace, presented their proposal to the Redistricting Commission. He started by discussing their position on the current District F. He provided a graphic of the current District F. The graphic will be posted on the website as Exhibit A and attached to these minutes. Mr. Rybczynski's proposal is to combine the municipalities of Havre de Grace and Aberdeen into the same Harford County Council district. He cited that both Cities have the same State Delegate and Senator representing them. He asked the Mayor of Havre de Grace, William Martin, to come forward to speak. Mr. Martin feels that Havre de Grace and Aberdeen have similar needs and feels that their differences are not competitive; and therefore, a singular Council Member would be able to represent both to keep their district tighter, rather than sprawled out. The Havre de Grace City Council approved this map prior to it being presented to the Commission. Wayne Goddard, Erik Robey, Jim Thornton and Christine Bracknell asked questions and Mr. Martin responded. Mr. Sidik made a comment.

Patrick McGrady, Mayor of Aberdeen, came forward to speak to the Commission. The City of Aberdeen adopted the same document that the City of Havre de Grace did in relation to the proposal being presented. He said the current Council Member for Aberdeen lives in Churchville; the two locations are materially different. He feels that the proposal is what a good redistricting map should look like from a good government perspective. The Aberdeen City Council fully supports this proposal. Mr. Robey and Mr. Sidik asked questions and Mr. Rybczynski and Mr. McGrady responded. Mr. Goddard and Ms. Bracknell had questions; Mr. McGrady answered. Mr. Thornton made comments.

Mr. Martin and Mr. McGrady made additional comments regarding their proposal. Mr. Sidik and Mr. Robey responded.

4. Public Comment

- 1. David Glenn, Havre de Grace City Council President, 3020 Lewis Lane, Havre de Grace, MD** – He feels the District F school board representative doesn't represent the children; he asked that any new border of District F be done in such a way that the kids get representation
- 2. Dion Guthrie, 413 Shore Drive, Joppa, MD** – He asked if the Council Members from Districts E and F had weighed in on the process

5. Commission Work Session

Joe Gallihue displayed the maps with Mr. Robey's suggested changes. Mr. Robey reviewed the changes he proposed; he has revised #2 and added 5 additional changes (**modified Option 1**):

Map Change #2 (revised)

Precinct 1-7 South East of Route 95 to the Boundary of 1-6 and 1-1 goes from B to A and is encompassed into precinct 1-6, with the area North of Route 95 staying precinct 1-7 and staying as part of District B.

Map Change 6

Precincts 4-1, 4-6, 4-7, and 4-3 will change from District D to District B

Map Change 7

Precincts 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, and 6-6 will change from District F to District D

Map Change 8

Precincts 1-9, 1-21, and 1-11 will change from District B to District F

Map Change 9

Precinct 2-1 will change from District E to District F

Map Change 10

Precinct 6-7 will change from District F to District E

With these changes, Mr. Robey has estimated the population of the districts to be:

- A. 45,475
- B. 43,220
- C. 42,438
- D. 45,470
- E. 43,117
- F. 41,052

(possible +/- of a few 100 people, pending GIS mapping)

Mr. Goddard had a question and Mr. Robey and Mr. McGrady responded. Mr. McGrady said he would send the Commission records on future anticipated annexation in Aberdeen that the Commission currently does not have. Mr. Sidik had questions; Mr. Robey responded. Mr. Thornton had a question; Mr. Sidik responded and clarified that the Commission now has three map change options before them to consider next week. A press release will be drawn up to send out stating that they have currently have three maps submitted, but the final submission date is Monday, September 20, 2021. Mr. Thornton had a suggestion. There was an additional comment made.

Mr. Sidik asked Mr. Gallihue if he could overlay Mr. Robey's revised 10 changes with the proposed changes by Havre de Grace/Aberdeen. Mr. Goddard asked a question; Mr. Gallihue responded. Mr. Sidik summarized the current options on the table: 1) Option 1 is Mr. Robey's and Mr. Goddard's (the Bel Air change suggested by Mayor Chmielewski) suggestions, combined; 2) the submitted maps and suggestions by Aberdeen and Havre de Grace; and 3) a hybrid of Option 1 and 2.

Mr. Goddard asked if the deadline for map submissions of Monday, September 20th will be strictly enforced. He felt it should be a strict deadline. Mr. Sidik said he would rely on the Commission for that answer. Mr. Thornton agreed to accept Mr. Goddard's comments as the 20th as a hard deadline for submissions. Mr. Goddard made a motion that the end of the September 20th meeting will be the strict deadline for map submissions; Mr. Thornton seconded. It was accepted unanimously.

Mr. Gallihue asked that the record show that he has submitted the net changes in the district populations from 2011- 2021 to the Commission. He also has also submitted the school districts maps.

Mr. Sidik said last week the Commission talked about having a Town Hall. He has been advised that there is one date where they would have the support and availability to do so, Thursday, September 23, 2021. Mr. Kearny made comments on how it will have to be conducted. Mylia Dixon, Council Administrator, made comments. Mr. Sidik had questions. Ms. Dixon responded. Mr. Thornton proposed to keep the date and try to make the outreach meeting happen. Mr. Goddard seconded. Ms. Dixon said they would be able to share screens so maps would be visible. Mr. Sidik suggested 6 pm; the meeting was agreed upon. Mr. Robey reviewed next week's schedule: Monday, September 20, Wednesday, September 22 and Thursday, September 23 for the public WebEx outreach meeting. Multiple Commissioners agreed that they would not be voting on anything until after the public meeting. Mr. Robey clarified that they are anticipating voting on the 27th. Mr. Sidik said the last meeting will be on September 30th.

The Commissioners made final comments.

Mr. Guthrie asked to come forward to make comments. He spoke about the "panhandle" of District A. He felt they were more "in tune" with District B or C. He asked for the Commission to take a look at combining the "panhandle" into District

B. Mr. Gallihue put up the map for the Commission to see. Mr. Robey said he did consider this change. Multiple Commissioners had questions about what area to which Mr. Guthrie is referring.

Mr. McGrady asked if it was within the scope of the Commission to look at the shape of a precinct. Mr. Robey said they can make the recommendation, but the Board of Elections has to be part of the process.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Thornton moved to adjourn; Mr. Goddard seconded. It was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Approved _____



Chairperson

9/20/21

Date