May 25, 2022

Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

May 25, 2022
5:30 p.m.
City Clerk’s Conference Room, City Hall

MEMBERS:
Estela Hernandez
RoseMarie Sanchez
Terry Cook
Lydia Hammond
Frances Lerner
Michael Harris (via Zoom)
Dr. Bobbie Green (via Zoom)

STAFF:
Christine Rivera, City Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 11, 2022

Frances Lerner Moved to Approve the Minutes and RoseMarie Sanchez Seconded the motion. The minutes were Approved 7-0.

III. CONCEPTS REGARDING MESQUITE AND ALAMEDA HISTORIC DISTRICTS.

Brittany Poss, Research & Polling reviewed idea maps concerning the Mesquite and Alameda Historic Districts.

Rosemarie Sanchez asked so District 2 would go all the way out to the airport?

Brittany Poss said that’s correct, under idea 11.

Brittany Poss continued with idea maps.

Rosemarie Sanchez asked for concept 11 does it pair the incumbents?

Brittany Poss said yes, it pairs the incumbents for 3 and 1, and 5 and 4.

Michael Harris said from a District 6 perspective, idea 11 and 16 are the best, splitting at Roadrunner is not great because the big physical feature in town is the dam that runs along the highway. I think it makes sense to move the Foothills neighborhood out of 6.
May 25, 2022

Estela Hernandez said concept 15 for district 1, however, I see the incumbents are switched.

Brittany Poss said we’re proposing just switching the numbers switch districts. The incumbent for District 3 lives in the Mesquite Historic District so it makes more sense for them to stay in District 3.

Terry Cook asked are these going up on the website?

Lydia Hammond said these are not official concepts yet. I think we agree that we do not like 9.

Michael Harris said I have a strong objection to 15.

Michael Sharp, Research & Polling reviewed Lydia’s idea map

Estela Hernandez asked can you explain what packing is?

Michael Sharp said packing and cracking refer to minority voting rights. With respect to communities of interest or historic areas, you unite into one district or you divide up the historic districts into multiple districts to have multiple voices.

Brittany Poss said all 4 ideas have majority Hispanic voting populations.

Lydia Hammond asked do you have any definitions of a historic district versus a community of interest?

Michael Sharp said communities of interest is a broad category with different viewpoints. I think historic districts would be within that realm.

Brittany Poss said there is no requirement to protect historic neighborhoods.

IV. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT.

George Pearson, Member of the Public said the most important thing is that the historic districts are kept together. We would like to have them all together in District 1 preference. Wherever city hall is, that should be District 1.

Earnestine Simmons, Member of the Public asked what is the triangular area in white?

Lydia Hammond said that is the University and they are not part of the city.
May 25, 2022

Gregory Shervanick, Member of the Public said Concept D fits everything except the
golf course, which is precincts 143, 102, and 141. Two of the precincts were taken out
of District 2 and that will allow you to have almost the same number of people in the
census population without moving anyone around. I understand why you would want to
keep the Alameda section with the Mesquite section under a particular councilor.

George Pearson said don’t split down the middle of Main Street.

Gregory Shervanick said downtown is a TIDD District and it operates different than a
residential section. I don’t think it will have changes to the population.

Lydia Hammond said we can decide if there’s any of the old concepts we want to get rid
of and add in any of the new ones.

Terry Cook said I’m just wondering how much public comment there needs to be and I
would like to spend a little more time with them. I’m primarily concerned about
displacing my councilor. I don’t have a strong objection to anything yet.

Michael Harris said the city’s website was just updated with much nicer versions of the
maps so we can give the public the opportunity to see those and then start whittling
away.

Gregory Shervanick asked will we be able to get a copy of the official concept maps?

Lydia Hammond said they will become official concepts and released to us and the
public.

Michael Harris said if 5 and 6 were under population and population distributions even.

Brittany Poss said the west side districts will have to encroach even more into 5 and 6
to get them on the lower deviations.

Estela Hernandez said I really liked Lydia’s proposal other than splitting Alameda Depot.

V. NEXT MEETING – JUNE 8, 2022

The committee decided to cancel the June 8th meeting to give time for public input and
reconvene on June 22, 2022.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
May 25, 2022

RoseMarie Sanchez Moved to Adjourn the Meeting, Terry Cook Seconded the Motion.

It was Unanimously Approved to Adjourn at 6:34 p.m.

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Chair