

Regular Meeting Minutes

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION



*Commissioner Aldo Yañez-Ruiz
Vice-Chair Leticia Casillas-Sanchez
Commissioner Natalie Chaidez
Commissioner Timmy Luong
Commissioner Ruth Alvarez
Commissioner Nancy Diaz
Commissioner John Mendoza*

VISION STATEMENT

*Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful
community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of
arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.*

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

5:00 PM

Teleconference via Zoom

5:00 P.M. Teleconference via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Yañez Ruiz called the Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Yañez Ruiz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present via Zoom: Chair Aldo Yañez Ruiz
Vice-Chair Leticia Casillas-Sanchez
Commissioner Natalie Chaidez
Commissioner Timmy Luong
Commissioner Ruth Alvarez
Commissioner Nancy Diaz
Commissioner John Mendoza

STAFF PRESENT via Zoom

Rosalia Butler, City Clerk
Mark Gluba, Deputy City Manager
Alison Glynn, Deputy City Clerk/Commission Secretary
Maria Arellano, Administrative Clerk, City Clerk's Office

Scott Smith, Attorney, Best, Best and Krieger (BBK)
Stephanie Smith, Director of Election Services, Best, Best and Krieger (BBK)

Hilda Estrada, contracted by the City to provide translation services via Zoom.

Staff from Tripepi Smith, an organization contracted by the City to provide marketing and outreach for the redistricting process.

Staff from National Demographics Corporation (NDC), an organization contracted by the City to provide demography services for the redistricting process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting Minutes

It is recommended that the Independent Redistricting Commission approve the following Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting Minutes

-June 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LUONG, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the July 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

2. Discuss the Rescheduling or Cancellation of Holiday Meetings in November and December

Staff and the Independent Redistricting Commission discussed options for upcoming meetings in November and December.

Commissioner Diaz suggested having one public hearing in November after the release of the data and another at the beginning of 2022.

Deputy City Manager Gluba indicated staff would have some possible dates and times for discussion on the next agenda.

City Clerk Butler asked if the third public hearing would be in November on a different date and time and the fourth public hearing in January. She confirmed the Commission would still like to meet in December on a different date because of conflicts with the holidays.

PUBLIC HEARING

3. Public Hearing to Receive Input on City District Boundaries

It is recommended that the Independent Redistricting Commission take the following actions:

- 1) Open the public hearing to receive input from the community regarding the redrawing of election district boundaries; and
- 2) Provide feedback to National Demographic Corporation regarding the proposed neighborhoods and communities of interest

Jeff Simonetti, from NDC, gave a presentation on the redistricting process and the communities of interest.

Chair Yañez Ruiz opened the public hearing.

Eunice Russell spoke about her neighborhood of Ganesha Hills and urged the Commission not to split the neighborhood up and be mindful of the politics involved. She said she agreed with the idea of moving the time of the meetings to encourage more participation and representation of all groups in Pomona. She mentioned the four mandatory public hearings and asked if there would be two additional public hearings dedicated to the maps. She encouraged the commissioners to drive through the neighborhoods to get a feel for the communities.

John Clifford said he agreed with Ms. Russell and mentioned the need to preserve the four Historic Districts in Pomona. He spoke on the current districting of downtown and emphasized it was a political decision. He stressed there needed to be single representation for citizens in the downtown district.

M. Joyce Bakersmith asked if the maps from the NDC presentation could include street designations. She also agreed the time of the meetings needed to be changed to ensure all citizens could participate.

Chair Yañez Ruiz closed the public hearing.

Chair Yañez Ruiz opened up the discussion for members of the Commission.

Commissioner Mendoza spoke on the question posed about designating street names on the maps and said he anticipated staff would have interactive maps in the future that would include more detail.

Jeff Simonetti indicated the public mapping tool would be interactive and would allow citizens to see the street names.

Commissioner Diaz asked if printouts would be available for the public.

Mr. Simonetti said the public would have the ability to print the maps and that paper maps would be available in the public participation kits.

Commissioner Diaz asked where the maps would be displayed.

Mr. Simonetti indicated the maps would be posted on the Draw Pomona website.

Commissioner Chaidez asked if there was a specific date the mapping tool would be available.

Mr. Simonetti explained the mapping tool would be available around early October when they anticipate having the full Census data.

Commissioner Chaidez asked about other access points for public feedback other than the public meetings.

Clare Burgess from Tripepi Smith informed her of the email address and contact form where the public could provide feedback to the Commission.

Commissioner Chaidez asked if the information could be more specific and that the contact page be made more accessible on the website.

Clare Burgess said she could add in more information and redirect the public from the map page to the contact page.

Commissioner Luong asked if the mapping tool would have the ability to toggle between layers to see historic district boundaries and other data on the maps.

Jeff Simonetti said the base map could toggle between different views like street view and satellite view. He said they would have to communicate with staff to see if GIS data was available on historic districts and other communities of interest to make it available within the mapping tool.

Commissioner Luong mentioned some other things that might be helpful to include like points of interest, city parkland, and commercial zoning in the downtown area.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked if the GIS data file of the Census data would be available.

Mr. Simonetti explained the tools that would be available to the public once the data becomes available.

Commissioner Diaz asked about translation to Asian languages.

Clare Burgess indicated Tripepi Smith was working with City staff to provide translation to Vietnamese and Chinese.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out the logistics of a November public hearing considering the Census data would not be available until October. He said he was concerned there would not be enough time to compile draft maps and present them to the public for feedback. He suggested holding off on the third public hearing until December. He spoke on the population disparity between districts five & six and the need to come up with solutions after the release of the Census data. He asked if the City could provide maps of some of the other districts that Pomona is a part of, including Senate and Congressional districts and school district maps.

City Clerk Butler said she would look into it.

Commissioner Mendoza mentioned that some of those districts might change due to current redistricting efforts.

Commissioner Alvarez said she agreed with Chair Yañez Ruiz that they should consider moving the third public hearing to December or January to allow time for the Commission to review the data.

Commissioner Chaidez asked if staff could shift the public hearing from November to December.

Deputy City Manager Gluba said City staff would bring some recommended public hearing time options to the next meeting after discussing options with the consultants. He pointed out the importance of outreach to the public when the mapping tool becomes available and stressed that would be when they would be gleaning the most public participation. He explained the Commission would be making decisions based on public recommendations and encouraged the individual commissioners to reach out to encourage public engagement with the mapping tool.

Commissioner Diaz asked about hybrid meetings.

Deputy City Manager Gluba explained the Commission was structured to be independent of Council and city staff influence. He mentioned the support materials provided by the consultants for individual commissioners to engage the community outside of the structured meetings facilitated by city staff.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Mendoza pointed out city staff had limited time and resources.

Vice-Chair Casillas-Sanchez mentioned a representative from the Youth Commission asked her to present on the work of the Independent Redistricting Commission. She asked about the process when Commissioners were asked to present to other bodies or organizations.

Clare Burgess mentioned that Tripepi Smith had put together a presentation and talking points for the Commissioners to use when presenting to other organizations. She encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to her or Jeff from NDC with any questions they may have prior to the presentation.

Vice-Chair Casillas-Sanchez said she wanted to make sure she was following any protocol in place by the city before presenting to another commission.

City Clerk Butler suggested the presentation be put on the agenda for the Youth Commission and to be mindful of the time allotted for the presentation. She said it was a great idea and important that other commissions were aware of the work that the Commission was doing. She cautioned against more than three commissioners attending the Youth Commission meeting as not to violate the Brown Act.

Deputy City Manager Gluba conveyed the importance of using those outreach events to encourage members of the community to use the mapping tools and attend the Independent Redistricting Commission meetings. He pointed out the City had budgeted to have legal Counsel and demographic experts present at the meetings to answer any questions the community might have regarding the redistricting process.

City Clerk Butler emphasized to Vice-Chair Casillas-Sanchez that she was there to present and not to answer questions. She suggested encouraging the people with questions to attend the next redistricting meeting to get those questions answered.

Commissioner Luong said he was going to spread the word about the Commission at his next HOA meeting.

Commissioner Mendoza encouraged his fellow commissioners to use caution when presenting outside of the regular meeting structure.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked Jeff Simonetti about a presentation by NDC discussing some of the criteria considered during the redistricting process and asked if the commissioners could get a copy.

Mr. Simonetti said he would ask Doug Johnson of NDC to get the information to the Commission.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Commission Secretary Glynn shared some information about the data involved in the SR-71 expansion referenced by Commissioner Diaz at the previous meeting. She indicated that Caltrans acquired 17 residential lots for the project.

She also informed the Commission the City was still looking into the request by Commissioner Chaidez to provide information for a mapping exercise done a few years back.

Deputy City Manager Gluba said Council meetings and all other City commission meetings

would remain virtual until at least October based on the recent public health developments.

City Clerk Butler reminded the Commission to adhere to the same conduct expected in in-person meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Yañez Ruiz adjourned the meeting at 6:25 pm to the next regular meeting on September 22, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

ALISON GLYNN
Deputy City Clerk /Commission
Secretary to the Independent
Redistricting Commission

ALDO YAÑEZ RUIZ
Chair of the Independent Redistricting
Commission