

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, September 22, 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

Commissioner Luong 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

Commission Secretary Glynn read the email comment into the record.

****Please see attachment for email comments read during 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

-August 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHAIDEZ, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the August 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

2. Next Steps and Update on the Mapping Tools

Jeff Simonetti, from NDC, gave a presentation on the next steps in the redistricting process and gave an update on the mapping tools.

Commissioner Diaz asked if the previously discussed communities of interest could be included in the presentation.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked about the numbers for incarcerated individuals.

Mr. Simonetti indicated the data was released on September 20 and that NDC still had to sort through the numbers.

Commissioner Mendoza mentioned the public comment sorting system used by the Los Angeles County Redistricting Commission and asked if Pomona could use a similar

approach.

Mr. Simonetti said they wanted to hear feedback from both the public and the Commission on what communities of interest they would like to consider and suggested having a more formal discussion on the matter at the next meeting.

Commissioner Diaz said she would be interested in seeing the list of previously identified communities of interest and asked about the Phillips Ranch community.

Mr. Simonetti listed those original communities of interest as Phillips Ranch, Downtown/Civic Center area, North Pomona along Foothill Boulevard, and the communities along Garey Avenue.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out the public comments from each meeting were included in the minutes.

After discussion by the Commission and staff, Chair Yañez Ruiz opened up the meeting for public comment.

Eunice Russell spoke on the mention of multiple representatives in the presentation and pointed out that could only be achieved with an at-large system. She said she was concerned about the process and the separation of communities of interest like her own. She asked if the Commission intended to redraw districts from scratch based on the communities of interest or if they would consider the districts as they exist now in the process. She asked how the public could provide useful information to the Commission and indicated the website did not seem to encourage public participation.

Chair Yañez Ruiz pointed out the Commission had to consider the existing map when redistricting and therefore would not be starting from scratch.

Attorney Scott Smith from Best, Best and Krieger (BBK) said the existing maps and the size and populations of the districts would be the starting point, with community input and maps building upon the fixed data.

Commissioner Chaidez mentioned the contact page on the website, the redistricting email address, and the upcoming map tool as ways for the public to provide input on the redistricting process.

Commissioner Alvarez asked what to do when the community rejects the work of the Commission.

Attorney Smith said the Commission had the discretion to take action within the parameters of the law.

Mr. Simonetti mentioned the Fair Maps Act and the Federal Voting Rights Act as guiding

principles that had to be adhered to when considering the district lines.

Ann Tomkins, from the Historic Preservation Commission, spoke on the Pomona Historic Districts and indicated each individual historic district should be a community of interest. She said she disagreed with a previous speaker who suggested combining them into one district.

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

It is recommended that the Independent Redistricting Commission review and approve the following rescheduled proposed dates for the November and December 2021 Independent Redistricting Commission meetings:

- Reschedule the Wednesday, November 24, 2021 meeting to Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Ganesha Park Community Center; and at 1:00 pm at the Washington Park Community Center
- Reschedule the Wednesday, December 22, 2021 meeting to Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm at City Hall

Deputy City Manager Gluba gave an update on the recent state assembly bill 361 from the Governor that allows for the continuation of virtual meetings and the intent of City Council to adopt resolutions to continue virtual meetings until the end of 2021. He explained that all City Board, Committee, and Commission meetings would remain virtual and asked how the Commission wanted to proceed regarding the proposed rescheduled dates.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked if the proposed resolution required the commission meetings to remain virtual.

Deputy City Manager Gluba said it was the intent of Council that all meetings remain virtual until the end of the year. He indicated they would reassess after that point, but said there was no guarantee meetings would return to in-person at that point.

Commissioner Mendoza asked for the reasoning behind the 5:00 pm meeting time for regular meetings. He also pointed out the Los Angeles County Redistricting Commission had low attendance at similar workshop-style meetings. He mentioned other alternative meetings by the LA Redistricting Commission at restaurants and other similar settings that garnered more public participation.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked staff for an explanation on the 5:00 pm meeting time.

Deputy City Manager Gluba explained the 5:00 pm meeting time was chosen mainly as not to conflict with City Council and other Commission meetings. He pointed out the

mapping tool would be able to be accessed at any time and would allow the public to participate in the process on their own time. He pointed out the alternate meeting times already proposed and said it was unfortunate the redistricting process was occurring during the pandemic.

Stephanie Smith, of the Best, Best and Krieger Law Firm, pointed out the current schedule was compliant with the code. She indicated staff would ensure that at least one meeting or workshop would occur on a weekend and another would occur later in the evening to meet the requirements mandated by law.

Deputy City Manager Gluba said the schedule had not been set, but he anticipated the City would go well beyond the minimum legal requirements when scheduling the remaining meetings.

Members of the Commission expressed their concern about maximizing inclusiveness and community engagement by meeting later in the day and increasing outreach.

Clare Burgess, of Tripepi Smith, explained some of the outreach efforts and encouraged Commission members to augment the efforts by connecting with their communities.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked about obtaining voter data like phone numbers and addresses for Pomona.

City Clerk Butler said she would look into it.

Deputy City Manager Gluba reminded the Commission to keep the discussion on the current item and that the Commissioners could add further comments under the Commissioner Communication portion of the agenda.

Paula Lantz commented that the 5:00 meeting time did not promote inclusiveness or community participation and encouraged staff to consider having all the meetings at 7:00 pm to ensure maximum participation.

Commissioner Casillas-Sanchez asked about the cost of printed materials for canvassing and Deputy City Manager Gluba indicated the City would cover those costs.

After some discussion, the Commission decided to go with the staff recommendations for the rescheduling of the November and December meetings virtually.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAIDEZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ, CARRIED 7-0, to approve the rescheduled special meeting dates to occur via teleconference on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 10:00 am and Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Alvarez requested the City print flyers with the November and December meetings and the public hearing dates.

Deputy City Manager Gluba said they did not have the public hearing dates set yet, but that Tripepi Smith could create a flyer for the City to print and distribute to the members of the Commission.

Commissioner Casillas-Sanchez requested the flyers be printed in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Commissioner Chaidez asked if the flyers could include the dates of the November and December meetings. She asked if staff could put an item on the next agenda for the consulting firm to outline public outreach strategies.

City Clerk Butler said they could place the item on the agenda.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked about the mapping tool and if people outside of the city limits would be able to submit feedback.

Jeff Simonetti from NDC pointed out anyone could submit a map and that the information would be part of the public record.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Deputy City Manager Gluba pointed out it was the goal of the redistricting team to reach out to as many community groups as possible. He encouraged individual Commissioners to reach out to staff with the contact information of any additional groups to include in the outreach efforts.

City Clerk Butler said the Commissioners could provide contact information for individuals who would like to be included in the outreach as well.

Chair Yañez Ruiz asked about access to older voter files from the 2018 or 2020 elections with information about the voter registration in the City.

City Clerk Butler indicated she would look to see what information was available in the City Clerk's office for older election data.

Chair Yañez Ruiz mentioned the effectiveness of text messaging outreach to registered voters and suggested that might be a good way to bring attention to the public hearings.

Commissioner Mendoza mentioned that the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder could provide that sort of information in a downloadable file.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Yañez Ruiz adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 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

****Email comments for the September 22, 2021 Independent Redistricting Commission meeting:*****Sean McMorris, California Common Cause***

Hello,

My name is Sean McMorris. I am with [California Common Cause](#). We are monitoring jurisdictions across California as they engage in the decennial redistricting process. All jurisdictions have certain obligations under California's [FAIR MAPS Act](#), including criteria for outreach and public participation. Currently, the Pomona Independent Redistricting Commission's meetings and public hearings begin at 5:00 pm. Many residents, especially those working from 9:00 pm to 5:00 pm, are unable to attend City meetings at 5:00 pm. Holding meetings an hour later would facilitate greater public participation.

I am writing to request that the Commission begin all future meetings and hearings at a later time (at least 6:00 pm) so that more residents have an opportunity to attend meetings and participate in the City's redistricting process through verbal Community of Interest testimony and real-time monitoring of the meetings. Having meetings at 6:00 pm or later is best practice and standard for most local redistricting commissions across California.

Please let me know if this is possible. I look forward to your response.

Thanks,

Sean M.