



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved AD HOC REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 26, 2021

4:00 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Castañeda called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and called the roll.

Present: 7 - Lindsay Lemmer; Nasra Wehelie; Arvina Martin; Charles Myadze; Austin S. Johnson; Justice M. Castañeda and Joan I. Schwarz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ald. Martin moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2021. Ald. Myadze seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

1. [66839](#) Public Comments

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. [66782](#) Redistricting Process

- Estimated Timeline for Madison's Redistricting Process
 - o Staff reviewed the redistricting timeline. Draft Alder District scenarios are not quite finished; those will be presented at next week's meeting.
 - o The Committee should consider adding a meeting the week of September 13th; a date on the 16th is already held on Committee members' calendars, Ald. Furman pointed out that is Yom Kippur.
- Current and Previous Redistricting Data
 - o Staff summarized data that has been compiled for the committee: 2010 Census race/ethnicity/other information used in the previous redistricting process, population density, population on east side vs. west side vs. downtown, block/ward/district population map, dot density map (race and ethnicity).
 - o Ald. Myadze: has any outreach been done to find out why numbers tend to go down for underserved communities? Staff: it's hard to tell; less population may have been added in District 18 when compared to other districts. There was robust outreach at the City level for the Census. Castañeda: there are different types of data collection, and there are several things that influence participation in the Census.
 - o Ald. Wehelie: will the criteria include different race and ethnicities as part

- of the redistricting process? Castañeda: yes.
- o Ald. Wehelie: my district is underserved as far as businesses and public parks - will redistricting account for that? Castañeda: that can be considered.
 - o Ald. Foster: This is only about alder districts and representation; we can't address disparities in opportunity or create parks or new businesses. Castañeda: we can invigorate conversations by grouping communities of interest. Ald. Foster: that should be a primary criteria.
- Online Mapping Tools - Representable, DistrictBuilder, WISE-LR
- o Staff summarized the online mapping tools that are available to members of the public and provided example maps for Representable and DistrictBuilder. WISE-LR is available to Committee members and Alders.
 - o Ald. McKinney: how do school attendance boundaries fit in to the discussion? Castañeda: the redistricting process doesn't impact MMSD's school attendance boundaries. It would be almost impossible to follow attendance areas completely when drawing boundaries.
 - o Ald. Myadze: we should dig in to feedback provided via the mapping tools.
 - o Castañeda: Committee members should dig in to the numbers and mapping.
- Draft Madison Redistricting Criteria/Communities of Interest
- o Staff summarized criteria and COIs and asked for direction from the Committee.
 - o Castañeda: should we consider UW students as a COI? Traditionally it has meant a few hundred students have determined an alder seat, and has almost always been a white student who isn't from Madison. Also: to what extent do we consider neighborhood associations?
 - o Ald. Foster: some associations aren't very active, but we should recognize neighborhoods whether or not they are represented by an association.
 - o Ald. Lemmer: neighborhoods shouldn't be a top consideration, but should be in the mix. We should be looking at neighborhoods, not associations.
 - o Ald. Foster: Example - the area by Hwy 30 is sliced up right now - bringing that area together under one district could help unify the voice from that area.
 - o Castañeda: Neighborhood associations play a critical role at the local level, but there is sometimes a lack of transparency and representation from various parts of the community.
 - o Ald. Lemmer: renter population sometimes does not get a fair shake as far as representation. They need to have more of a voice. Ald. McKinney: I agree.
 - o Ald. Martin: we should be looking at NRT areas as a consideration. Also agree that we need to account for renter representation.
 - o Ald. Myadze: more growth is needed on the north side - the district keeps getting bigger. If the north side had better transit more people would move there.
 - o Ald. Carter: not all neighborhood associations require homeownership. Also - with apartments becoming more secure it becomes more difficult to engage with apartment residents. Neighborhood associations need to be creative. And - NRTs may need to shift boundaries.
 - o Schwarz: redistricting can't really address transit concerns.
 - o Staff: we need direction from the Committee on COIs and optional criteria.
 - o The Committee discussed COIs as it relates to UW students, income, and immigrant communities.

Ald. Wehelie moved to consider a final list of criteria and COIs at the next

meeting. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Ald. Martin moved to approve the required and optional redistricting criteria listed in the staff presentation of August 19th: equal population, enhance participation of diverse residents with regard to race/ethnicity/language, compact districts, contiguous districts, use major arterials and other physical barriers as boundaries where practical, ensure numerous alder districts are exposed to future population growth, and to include the following communities of interest: college students, neighborhoods/neighborhood associations, elementary school attendance areas, housing tenure/transience, and income distribution. Schwarz seconded.

Ald. Lemmer clarified that equal population should use the guideline of + -5%, with the goal to be as close as possible. Ald. Martin accepted that as a friendly amendment.

The Committee unanimously approved the criteria by voice vote.

- Committee Member Requests for Resources or Information
 - o None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ald. Martin to adjourn. Seconded by Schwarz. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.