



City of Madison

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

Monday, October 4, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Castañeda called the meeting to order at 2:01pm and called the roll. Johnson joined shortly after roll call.

Present: 5 - Lindsay Lemmer; Nasra Wehelie; Arvina Martin; Austin S. Johnson and Justice M. Castañeda

Absent: 1 - Joan I. Schwarz

Excused: 1 - Charles Myadze

APPROVAL OF September 30, 2021 MINUTES

Ald. Martin moved approval. Ald. Lemmer seconded. The minutes of September 30, 2021 were approved unanimously by voice vote.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

1. [66839](#) Public Comments

Bob Schaefer, district 17: Please keep Ald. Halverson in his district.

Ald. Martin reminded the Committee and meeting viewers: the Committee is not looking at alder addresses when considering redistricting boundaries.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Schwarz joined the meeting at approximately 2:35 p.m. and Myadze joined the meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m., during discussion of agenda item #2.

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

2. [66782](#) Redistricting Process

· **Estimated Timeline for Madison's Redistricting Process**

- o Staff reviewed the timeline.
- o Ald. Wehelie asked if there are amendments, should those be considered during the amendment process at Council? Staff: one new scenario was proposed from Ald. Carter. The Committee could consider that now, if desired, or allow the Council to consider that as an amendment.
- o Castañeda said that the Committee could discuss amendments, if desired.

- o Ald. Wehelie moved to have the Committee discuss Ald. Carter's concept. Ald. Martin seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Madison Redistricting Criteria/Communities of Interest

Staff reviewed the criteria. There were no questions from the Committee.

Draft Ward Plan Polling Places for Alder Concept 7a

Discussion of the impact of Ald. Carter's Concept on Concept #7a:

- o Staff gave an overview of Ald. Carter's concept. District 15 is about 1,300 over the high end of the population range. District 10 is about 100 under the minimum. The concept is similar to ones submitted by Ald. Bennett and Ald. Foster.
- o Ald. Foster noted that the main change is bringing Arbor Hills into D14 and removing portions of South Park Street from D14. That is not going in the right direction.
- o Castañeda shared Ald. Foster's concern with the proposed concept. Concept #7a gives us two districts that are over 40% people of color. Ald. Carter's concept cuts off Allied Drive from the rest of D10, similar to Concept #6. #7a creates a strong southern district.
- o Ald. Evers like the idea of a Lake Wingra watershed district in Ald. Carter's proposal. However, the proposal cuts off the southern part of the Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood, which cuts off some residents from a Wingra Watershed district (D13). Splitting up the Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood doesn't make much sense.
- o Ald. Carter: one of the things that groups residents in D13 together is the common element of a high water table. The Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood is the least fragile neighborhood of the three that are covered by the proposal. There is a strong link between Leopold and Arbor Hills. The Park Street corridor has Wingra Creek and Lake Wingra in common.
- o Schwarz joined the meeting at approximately 2:35pm.

Review of Wards:

- o Must split wards with high population (4,000), combine for low population (<1,000, mainly due to annexation).
- o COVID led to many polling place changes. MMSD is likely to rejoin hosting polling places after spring 2022.
- o Districts 1 and 9 have proposed ward splits. Districts 1 and 7 don't have many choices for polling places.
- o Lost City and Carver St. area could be added in to D13 in terms of numbers, but it would have to be brought in to the City as its own ward of ~600 population.
- o May need to split the Badger Rock ward in anticipation of the Town of Madison joining the City.
- o UW works with the City to host polling places in the campus.
- o D4 - could also split Ward 4d to anticipate redevelopment population growth.
- o Isthmus wards split due to population growth.
- o Could split 18b, 15d, due to fairly high populations.
- o Ald. Wehelie asked about D7 polling place prospects. Staff: There was a church that hosted, but has not expressed interest post-COVID. Options could be explored in Fitchburg. Ald. Wehelie: are there any alternatives to Chavez? Staff: not at this point.
- o Ald. Martin: what are the parameters for a polling place? What are the best practices and priorities? I know it can be hard to find willing spaces. Staff:

needs to be ADA accessible, welcoming to residents, in or close to the ward. Partnering with neighborhood organizations has helped locate polling places in the past. There are written criteria that staff can share with the Committee.

- o Ald. Foster: for 15d - could they use Pinney Library? Staff: Pinney withdrew when the YMCA expressed interest. The ward could be split, with half voting at Pinney and half at YMCA. Ald. Foster: a lot of buildout has happened around Pinney. Voit farm may start developing. If it is to be split now look at the railroad tracks.
- o Ald. Foster: Ward 3d, the eastern section is a chunk of the Ridgewood neighborhood. Look at putting that into D17 and move Mayfair into D3. Also - the 18 people at the airport should be shifted to D18.
- o Ald. Abbas: where would the future Town of Madison voters vote for the apartments on the north side? Staff: Tenney Park. Ald. Abbas: look at using MATC on Commercial Avenue instead.
- o Ald. Carter: will MATC's Goodman South Madison campus still be used as a polling place? Staff: they will be available, but not currently assigned. Ald. Carter: will there be three wards going to Leopold? Staff: currently 14e and 10e would vote at Leopold. Where would Town of Madison voters vote? Staff: they could vote at MATC.

Committee Member Requests for Resources or Information

- o Ald. Myadze joined the meeting at approximately 3pm.
- o The chair encouraged the Committee to review the demographic data that staff has compiled.
- o Ald. Wehelie: Where does Ald. Carter's concept stand within the process? Castañeda said staff moved forward with 7a based on Committee direction at the last meeting. If the Committee would like to request further analysis that is possible. Ald. Wehelie: Can Ald. Carter's concept be integrated into 7a in South Madison without disrupting the majority of the concept? Staff: the concept is significantly different west of campus. Ald. Wehelie: can the east side of the map be edited? Castañeda: D15 and the east side is not the main difference - the biggest differences are on the south and southwest sides.
- o Ald. Wehelie moved to direct staff to create a new concept map that integrates changes recommended in Ald. Carter's map. Ald. Myadze seconded the motion.
 - Ald. Martin asked for the criteria staff will be using to create the new scenario. Castañeda referred to the memo drafted by Ald. Carter.
 - Ald. Lemmer: I'm open to the idea if there is a way to limit the changes to D10, D13, and D14.
 - Johnson: we should look at this if there is a way to limit the scope to the area in question and not reopen the rest of the map.
 - Ald. Foster: this has been a difficult process to communicate to the public. To make a major change to an area that has been reviewed by the Committee in depth in the past is too challenging. Why would you split up Bram's Addition into two districts to keep two separate neighborhood associations in the same district?
 - Ald. Martin: If this change is something that can't get done before our last meeting, could it be accommodated through the amendment process? Staff: we could prepare something for Thursday, or the Committee could decide to save it until the amendment process. It may be possible to accommodate the change as a circular shift between D10, D13, and D14.
 - Ald. McKinney: Communities of Interest are heavily weighted in the process. Arbor Hills and Leopold make sense as a COI together -

they are interconnected.

Aye: Johnson, Ald. Martin, Ald. Lemmer, Ald. Myadze, Ald. Wehelie, Schwarz, Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

- o Ald. Lemmer moved to direct staff to explore putting all of Ridgewood in D17. Seconded by Ald. Martin.
 - Ald. Myadze: does this impact the Autumn Lake neighborhood?
Staff: no.
- Aye: Ald. Myadze, Ald. Lemmer, Ald. Martin, Ald. Wehelie, Schwarz, Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:38pm.