

CITY OF STAMFORD REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Members

DAVID R. MARTIN, Co-Chair

ALBERT BANKS

MICHAEL J. CACACE

JOHN DAROSA

Members

VINCENT FRECCIA, Co-Chair

CRISTINA ANDREANA

NINO ANTONELLI

JONATHAN HOCH

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Redistricting Commission held its organizational meeting on

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Democratic Caucus Room
4th Floor, Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

Randall M. Skigen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present were Commission Members: Albert Banks, John DaRosa, Michael Cacace; David Martin; Cristina Andreana; Nino Antonelli; and Vincent Freccia. Mr. Hoch was absent. Also present were Randall M. Skigen, President of the Board of Representatives (BOR); Demetrios Frazis, Member of the BOR; Mike Pensiero, IT Director and Cindy Barber, GIS.

- Mr. Skigen administered the oath of office to Commission members present (the oath was administered to Ms. Andreana later during the course of the meeting). (See [attached list](#) of members.)
- Election of Commission Officers
 - Upon motion by David Martin and duly seconded, the Commission agreed by unanimous voice vote to elect co-chairs (one Democrat and one Republican).
 - Mr. Antonelli nominated Vincent Freccia as co-chair; said motion was seconded by Ms. Andreana and approved by unanimous voice vote.
 - Mr. Cacace nominated Mr. Martin as co-chair; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Mr. Skigen stated that the Commission has six months from the date of its appointment to report to the BOR; the BOR then has 60 days after receipt of the Commission's report to accept, reject or modify the report and to enact any ordinances.

- Mr. Skigen reviewed the [2001 Reapportionment Process](#).

The Commission briefly discussed whether it was feasible to have the redistricting completed in time for the upcoming “interim year” Board of Reps November elections, but thought that the redistricting probably would not apply to this election. Commissioners recommended that the President of the Board of Reps review this matter with Corporation Counsel, and until there is legal opinion to the contrary, this would not be a consideration of the Commission.

- Maps

Four maps (prepared by the City’s GIS Dept.) were distributed and reviewed (see attached maps: [population changes](#); [population changes with districts](#); [Republican Town Committee & Democratic City Committee members](#) AND [BOR members](#)).

- Process

- Mr. Cacace, who has served on two prior redistricting commissions, noted that the first goal is to get the districts as equal in population as possible, with 5% deviation on either side from 6,132 (population divided by 20 districts).
- The second goal is to not dilute minority representation. The Commission can neither disperse a minority population into multiple districts nor concentrate minorities into a single district.
- Remaining goals include maintenance of polling locations, minimizing disruption to existing districts, and relationship to state districts.
- Mr. Skigen added that about 1/3 of current representatives are located near the edges of their districts, and these are the people that will be voting on the final plan. Mr. Skigen also noted that he will be naming a Special Committee on Redistricting of the BOR at its June meeting.
- In response to a question, Mr. Skigen stated that redistricting involves all residents – not registered voters and that some districts have 3 times as many registered voters as other districts.
- Mr. Martin noted that the Commission can only move census blocks, which are the smallest of the three groupings used by the Census Bureau: blocks are aggregated into block groups which are aggregated into census tracts.

- Administrative Issues

- Mr. Skigen stated that BOR staff will provide administrative support, including preparation and filing of meeting notices, brief minutes.
- All meetings of the Commission will be videotaped and available on the City’s/BOR website within 24 hours of the meeting.

- Cindy Barber will provide GIS support (Mr. Pensiero stressed that Ms. Barber is the only person in the City that can provide this support and asked that the Commission be cognizant of this fact).
 - Mr. Skigen reviewed the budget; there is approximately \$23,000 in the current fiscal year (ending 6/30/11) and \$50,000 in FY 2011-12.
 - Mr. Skigen stated that legal questions should be forwarded to the Office of the BOR.
- Communications
 - City email addresses will be established. Members discussed confidentiality issues if emails were forwarded to home or work accounts. Mr. Skigen agreed to get a legal opinion from the City Law Dept. to determine whether member's privileged communications would be protected from any FOI request.
- Ethics
 - Mr. Martin mentioned the City Ethics Code, adding that any member who is considering running for the BOR should refrain from voting on changes that would impact his/her district.
- GIS Services
 - The Commission discussed either using a consultant or purchasing GIS software. The consultant estimate is \$6,000 to \$8,000, and the estimate for the software is \$4,500. Mr. Pensiero will look into the number of licenses provided.
 - Mr. Cacace felt that if the software could be used for other purposes in the City, purchasing it may be a better use of funds.
 - Mr. Martin requested that Mr. Pensiero should make a recommendation on whether a consultant would be needed.
- Next Meeting
 - The Commission requested population counts for the current districts, with general agreement that this would be the best place to start.
 - Mr. Pensiero stated that the district population numbers and the email addresses will be set up by the end of the week, and the BOR office will distribute this information.
 - The Commission agreed to meet on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., and the next meeting is scheduled for May 26th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

David Martin, Co-Chair
 Vincent Freccia, Co-Chair