



REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all members in attendance, except for Erik Robey.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

James Thornton made a motion to approve the minutes from September 15, 2021. Wayne Goddard seconded. The September 15, 2021 minutes were approved with an unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment

1. **Stephanie Taylor, Director of Board of Elections, 133 Industry Lane, Forest Hill, MD** – Ms. Taylor advised the Commission of specific characteristics of several precincts and the what the effects would be if some of the proposed changes were to be approved. Her comments will be attached to these minutes.

Mr. Thornton had comment regarding keeping the Board of Election's concerns in mind as they propose maps. Mr. Thornton had a question; Charlie Kearney, Council Attorney, and Ms. Taylor responded.

2. **Maggie Mundle, 4863 Norrisville Road, White Hall, MD** - Ms. Mundle is concerned about having adequate representative in the rural areas; her concern specifically lies in proposed changes to Districts B and D.
3. **Adam Rybczynski, City of Havre de Grace, Pennington Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD** – Mr. Rybczynski wanted clarification on Erik Robey's proposed changes. He also wanted to clarify a statement that Mayor Martin made at the last meeting.

Mr. Rybczynski also had answers to questions that were brought up at the last meeting. He said precincts 3-8, 3-9, and 3-24 (3-24 is currently in D) they follow the East West Highway, Water Tower Road, and Grafton Road. Together they jointly make up about 10,000 people. They are not in the municipal limits of Bel Air.

He said found several districts in the State of Maryland that have multiple municipalities within the same district. He believes it is a common situation in Maryland.

Mr. Goddard said he disagrees that it is a common situation. He asked Mr. Rybczynski a question; Mr. Rybczynski responded. Mr. Goddard read the Maryland Constitution Article 3, Section 4. He asked if Mr. Rybczynski if he know of any case law where any court has approved the consolidation of two incorporated municipalities into one councilmanic district. Mr. Rybczynski said he is not familiar but can research it and return on Wednesday. Mr. Goddard felt that a memorandum of law should have been submitted to support such an 'extraordinary' request.

Mr. Goddard asked if they had considered having a referendum to find out what the citizens want; Mr. Rybczynski said they are seeking a petition currently. Mr. Rybczynski said he will return on Wednesday with their attorney. Mr. Thornton had comments with respect to the memorandum that Mr. Goddard created but has not been presented yet. Mr. Goddard said he believes that their job is to make sure that the politicians don't draw the lines. Mr. Sidik asked the speaker to have his answers prepared for Wednesday.

4. Commission Work Session

Mr. Sidik said there will be the virtual Town Hall (Outreach) on Thursday. He asked for the Commissioners had any questions or input. He proposed presenting the maps and then providing time for public comments. Mr. Goddard had questions. Mr. Thornton said he was fine with the proposed schedule.

Joel Gallihue presented a map with options 2 and 3 superimposed on each other. He also has an Aberdeen-Havre de Grace's proposal and an Aberdeen- Havre de Grace Plus that incorporates some of Mr. Robey's plan. Mr. Gallihue pulled up the Harford County Redistricting webpage where the maps are available for people to view. He displayed the Aberdeen-Havre de Grace Plus map. He discussed which changes were made.

Mr. Sidik mentioned Dion Guthrie's plan request and Ms. Taylor's guidance in regards to getting those suggestions incorporated into the map. Mr. Gallihue said he can make the Guthrie and Taylor changes to all the maps. Mr. Thornton made comments about clarifying each map. The map options are now:

Option 1 Mr. Robey's suggestions

Option 2 Aberdeen-Havre de Grace's suggestions

Option 3 Combination of option 1 and 2

Option 4 Guthrie's suggestion for the 1-15 precinct, adding it to the plan Aberdeen-Havre de Grace

Option 5 Guthrie's suggestion for the 1-15 precinct to the current map as it stands today

There is some discussion about Ms. Taylor's suggestions and making changes to Mr. Robey's suggestions without him being in attendance. Mr. Goddard's recommendation is to table the discussion until the next meeting when Mr. Robey is in attendance. Mr. Sidik tabled the discussion until Wednesday. He said Wednesday they have to finalize the proposed maps. Mr. Thornton made comments and said the more they can be concise and specific, the better for the public. Mr. Goddard made comments.

There was a submission sent to the Redistricting email from Jen Wilson, a citizen. The email will be posted on the website. Mr. Gallihue made comments. He added that Ms. Wilson is a colleague of his.

There is a memorandum regarding the combining of Aberdeen and Havre de Grace municipalities into one district, submitted by Mr. Goddard. The memorandum will be posted on the website. He made comments regarding his memorandum. Mr. Kearney made a clarification. Ms. Bracknell made comments regarding the combination Aberdeen and Havre de Grace. Mr. Thornton made comments about responding to Mr. Goddard's memorandum and requested that it be presented to Council to get clarification prior to presenting it to the public and voting next week. Mr. Goddard made additional comments. Mr. Thornton made additional comments. Ms. Bracknell agrees with Mr. Thornton; she agrees that Mr. Goddard has reasonable questions; however, she wants to know the legality of the

combination. Mr. Sidik asked Mr. Kearney if he had comments. Mr. Kearney said he hopes the municipalities come forward with more solid reasons for combining. He offered additional comments. Mr. Thornton made comments regarding an elected official representing more than one municipality. He asked how the voters would weigh in with their opinions. Mr. Goddard, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Sidik made additional comments.

Mr. Sidik had questions for Mr. Goddard and Mr. Kearney. He asked in terms of the case Mr. Goddard cited in his memorandum, to please describe the case. Mr. Goddard responded. Mr. Sidik read exhibit C and asked for background on that case. Mr. Goddard responded. Mr. Sidik asked another question and Mr. Goddard answered. Mr. Sidik asked him to expand on what his rationale for the motivations behind Aberdeen and Havre de Grace in asking to be combined. Mr. Goddard answered. Ms. Bracknell made comments. Mr. Sidik made comments and posed another question. Mr. Goddard responded. Mr. Sidik made comments and said the municipalities should have an opportunity on Wednesday to respond to Mr. Goddard's questions. Mr. Thornton made comments. Mr. Sidik asked Mr. Kearney a question and Mr. Kearney said that the revised Option 1 is illegal. Mr. Sidik and Mr. Thornton made additional comments.

Mr. Sidik asked for final comments from the Commissioners.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Goddard made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Thornton seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Approved _____



Chairperson

9/24/2024

Date