



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - MAY 11, 2021

**Attendees:**

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg  
Vice Chairman Derrick Watchman  
Commissioner Shereen Lerner  
Commissioner David Mehl  
Commissioner Douglas York  
Executive Director Brian Schmitt  
Brett Johnson, Esq. Snell & Wilmer  
Eric Spencer, Esq. Snell & Wilmer  
Daniel Arellano, Esq. Ballard Spahr  
Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr  
Michael Hildebrandt - Arizona Department of Administration  
Nicole Sorenson - Arizona Department of Administration  
Jessica Klein - Arizona Attorney General's Office  
Debbie Wilks, Transcriptionist

I. Call to Order and Roll Call:

A. Call for Quorum:

The Independent Redistricting Commission convened on Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 8:00am.

Present:

Chairwoman Neuberg,  
Vice Chair Watchman,  
Commissioner Lerner  
Commissioner Mehl  
Commissioner York

B. Call for Notice:

Executive Assistant Valerie Neumann confirmed that the meeting agenda was properly posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

II. Approval of minutes from May 4, 2021:

Commissioner Lerner made a motion to approve the General Session and Executive Session minutes from the May 4th Independent Redistricting Commission meeting. Commissioner York seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments:

At 8:06AM Chairwoman Neuberg opened public comments and indicated that public comments would be open for a minimum of 30 minutes and would remain open until the adjournment of the meeting.

IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to May 11, 2021:

Chairperson Neuberg reiterates to the public that IRC's legal counsel will not be advising any candidate or political committee with regard to the Arizona redistricting process. Commissioner Lerner thanks everyone for their comments on the mapping consultants. Lerner expresses concern about the inaccuracy and tone of the content of comments pertaining to Haystak, one of the applicants. She reminded the public that the Commissioners are volunteers and asked that comments submitted be civil and issue-focused.

V. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof:

Plans for the new office space have been finalized, with a tentative move-in date in June or July. The Budget is still being negotiated by the legislature, and resolution is expected within the next week or two. The increase of authority approval for the two additional FTE positions has not yet been approved. ADOA and IT are working through system requirements needed to be online in the next few weeks.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action on Community Outreach Coordinator and other potential hires and duties of all IRC staff positions:

Director Schmitt seeks approval from the Commission regarding the Community Outreach Coordinator position today. In the event authority is granted prior to the next meeting, the job position can be posted and the interview process may begin. Director Schmitt states that additional hires may be needed in the future to assist with this position, after a plan is in place for future public hearings. The Community Outreach Coordinator's duties will be to reach out to as many different community groups as possible to gather information from these groups to understand them as objectively as possible.

Commissioner York makes a motion to approve a Community Outreach Coordinator position, Vice Chair Watchman seconds the motion. The motion is approved 5-0.

\*Please note that the Commission addressed the next several items out of order to respect the time of ADOA and the AG's office, who are to be released from the meeting after Item VIII.

VIII. Discussion and possible action on options for mapping consultant:

A. Update regarding Notice of Award and Posting of Procurement File.

The Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss the Procurement Process regarding the mapping consultant. Commissioner Watchman makes a motion to go into Executive Session, Commissioner York seconds the motion. The motion is unanimously approved 5-0.

Upon return from Executive Session, Chairperson Neuberg advises the public that the Commission had the opportunity to get an update from the Procurement officers in reference to awarding the contract to the Mapping Consultant. The Commission discussed the procurement documentation and contract determination. The Commissioners will sign the determination, the state procurement officers will then submit the written determination which will be posted within 3 days.

Jessica Klein and Michael Hildebrant and Nicole Sorinson have left the meeting.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Counsel Briefing:

- A. Training - Conflicts of Interest and Ethics
- B. Use of Subcommittees and Compliance with Open Meeting Law
- C. Demographer Presentation Opportunities and Utilization of Non-Census Government Data
- D. Public Records Compliance - Initial Guidance

Commissioner York moves to go into Executive Session, seconded by Vice Chair Watchmann, the motion to go into Executive Session is unanimously approved 5-0.

Upon return from Executive Session, commissioner Neuberg advises the public that during Executive Session the Commission had the benefit of getting a full debrief from Council on training for conflicts of interest, ethics and the use of subcommittees. The commission has determined they are interested in bringing in the State demographer for a presentation, and would like the opportunity to learn from non-census government data. They would also like to look into what the Census Bureau May be able to share with us. The commission will be moving forward to invite a state demographer, and someone from the Census Bureau to brief them, not in lieu of census data, but as to perspective and context.

The commission needs to further explore item D. public records compliance, but will be tabled for another day.

IV. Discussion and possible action on Legal RFP:

A. Closeout

The Legal RFP is no longer necessary since the two legal firms have been secured through contracts with the state, in which Chairperson Neuberg suggests this item be closed out. Commissioner Lerner makes a motion and Commissioner Mehl seconds the motion. The formal legal RFP process is closed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

X. Discussion and possible action on Census Data and delay and ways to mitigate its disruption:

A. Update concerning identification of consultant to analyze impact on Arizona.

B. Potential invitation to Census Bureau to provide a presentation.

Legal counsel advises they have been interviewing and talking to potential Consultants in this area related to the census delay and the differential privacy issue. Discussion regarding extending and invitation to the Census Bureau to provide a presentation has been discussed in item VII.

XII. Discussion of future agenda item requests:

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

XIII. Discussion and Possible Action on the Schedule of future meetings:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 8:00am - 12:00pm.

XIII. Announcements:

A. Next meeting date.

May 18, 2021 at 8:00am

XIV. Closing of Public Comments:

Public comments are closed at 10:50am

XV. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn is made by Commissioner Watchman, Commissioner York seconds the motion. The Commission votes unanimously to adjourn 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:51am.