



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - MAY 18, 2021

**In Attendance:**

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg  
Commissioner Shereen Lerner  
Commissioner David Mehl  
Commissioner Douglas York  
Executive Director Brian Schmitt  
Brett Johnson, Esq. Snell & Wilmer  
Eric Spencer, Esq. Snell & Wilmer  
Jillian Andrews, Esq. Ballard Spahr  
Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr  
Angela Miller, Transcriptionist

I. Call to Order and Roll Call:

A. Call for Quorum:

The Independent Redistricting Commission convened on Tuesday May 18, 2021 at 8:00am. Due to audio difficulties, the legal team advised the Commission to start the meeting over, which began at 8:16am.

Present:

Chairwoman Neuberg  
Commissioner Lerner  
Commissioner Mehl  
Commissioner York

A quorum is present. It is noted Vice-Chair Watchman is not in attendance.

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 11, 2021:

- A. General Session:
- B. Executive Session:

Commissioner Mehl made a motion to approve the General Session and Executive Session minutes from the May 11, 2021 Independent Redistricting Commission meeting. Commissioner Lerner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments:

At 8:20am 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 18, 2021:

Commissioner Lerner thanks everyone for their comments and the Commission understands the public's frustration with the amount of Executive Sessions. Lerner states they are hopeful that the Executive Sessions will decrease moving forward, but are necessary during this organizational and learning time period. Chair-Person Neuberg states the legal advice given during Executive Sessions is necessary so the Commission can meet their obligations to the state and to protect the Commission from litigation.

V. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof:

Director Schmitt states that he and Executive Assistant Neumann had some initial IRC website training. With that training, the following updates have been made to the website: The "Contact Us" section was moved to the main page to make it easier for the public to locate and a newsroom feature has been added, with a link to the RFP award, and the Differential Data presentation that was given several weeks ago. A newsletter link will be added in the future.

Director Schmitt indicated that if there are any specific elements that the public would like to see on the website, they should submit a comment on the Public Comments Section, or on the "Contact Us" page on the website.

The mapping consultant award was posted on Friday, May, 15, 2021 on ADOA's procurement portal.

The three additional positions that the Commission approved, have not yet been approved by the legislature.. Director Schmitt seeks approval from the Commission to purchase new computers and move from Google to Office. The estimated cost for hardware for 10 users is estimated at \$25K, and \$200/user per year for software. Commissioner Lerner asks once the plan is formalized, to present it to the Commission for approval.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action on Community Outreach Coordinator and Other Potential hires and duties of all IRC staff positions.

Director Schmitt states that there has not been any word yet on the approval of the increased FTE's. Commissioner Mehl asks if the approval is imminent or is there anything that can be done to move the process forward. Schmitt believes the approvals should be soon. Commissioner Lerner requests that they be notified once the positions are posted. Chair-person Neuberg indicates that there is a lot of work to be done by the Commission, and is feeling a sense of urgency on having a complete staff to do so.

VII. Discussion and possible action on Legal Counsel Briefing:

A. Public Records Compliance - Initial Guidance

The Commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss the Public Records Guidance. Commissioner Mehl makes a motion to go into Executive Session, Commissioner York seconds the motion. The motion is unanimously approved 4-0.

Upon reconvening from Executive Session, Chairperson Neuberg advises the public that Legal counsel provided a very thorough presentation on Public Records, and although it may be frustrating for the public, there is value of doing this training in Executive Session, where the Commissioners have the opportunity to ask questions about the complex issues related to public records. The presentation from counsel will eventually be made public, either posted on our website, or by another manner.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action on Census Data and delay and ways to mitigate its Disruption.

A. Potential invitation to Census Bureau and State Demographer to provide a presentation.

Legal Counsel has made a request/invitation to the Census Bureau and the State Demographer to give a presentation before the Commission in public session.

The Chief of Redistricting, and the Senior Advisor for Data Access and Privacy from the Census Bureau will be making a presentation which will be a standard presentation that they may have used previously.

The State Demographer's presentation would include a look back 10 years, forward 10 years, and provide information on communities of interest.

The timeline for presentations should be in the upcoming weeks, and the Commissioners will be able to ask Arizona specific questions.

Commissioner Lerner asked if both the Census Bureau and the State Demographer could provide compare/contrast information on their data, and help the Commission understand the differences between their data.

Chairperson Neuberg is interested in learning about Arizona specific data to help the Commission learn how the Census and Demographer's data will help the Commission better understand Arizona communities.

Commissioner Mehl asks the legal team about the actions from other states brought upon the Census Bureau and if there are any updates. No decision has been made yet, but the legal team will provide updates as they develop.

IX. Discussion of future agenda item requests:

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

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

There is a possibility of a presentation from our new mapping consulting team next week, or within the next several weeks.. Commissioner Lerner requests if it would be acceptable for future meetings to begin at 8:00am rather than 9:00am.

XI. Announcements:

A. Next meeting date.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2021 at 8:00am.

XIV. Closing of Public Comments:

Public comments are closed at 9:50am

XV. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn is made by Commissioner Mehl, Commissioner York seconds the motion. The Commission votes unanimously to adjourn 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53am.