



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 8, 2021

In Attendance:

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg
Vice-Chair Derrick Watchman
Commissioner Shereen Lerner
Commissioner David Mehl
Commissioner Douglas York
Executive Director, Brian Schmitt
Public Information Officer, Michele Crank
Eric Spencer, Esq. Snell & Wilmer
Jillian Andrews, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Debbie Wilks, Transcriptionist

I. Call to Order and Roll Call:

A. Call for Quorum:

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

Present:

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

A quorum is present.

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 June 1, 2021:

A. General Session

Commissioner Mehl makes a motion to approve the General Session minutes, Vice-Chair Watchman seconds the motion. The motion is unanimously approved 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments:

At 8:03am 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 June 8, 2021:

Chair-Person Neuberg states that the majority of public comments reference the short notice of town halls/public hearings proposed, and the Majority/Minority leader invitations to IRC meetings, which both topics will be addressed later in the meeting.

V. Executive Director's Report and discussion and Possible Action thereof:

- A. Office update
- B. Budget update, including potential future legal cost appropriations
- C. FTE positions
- D. Discussion on ADOA resources/updates:
 - 1. IT
 - a. Discussion of proposed timeline for IT integration and migration
 - b. Discussion concerning status of technology purchases.
 - c. Discussion of ADOA migration software.
 - 2. Status of mandated ADOA HR training for staff.
- E. Discussion and possible action on Community Outreach Coordinator and other potential hires and duties of all IRC Staff positions.
- F. Public Records Request Form Website location update
- G. Travel Schedule Update.
 - 1. Attachment A - Proposed Tentative Travel and meeting schedule.
- H. Discussion of State CISO presentation concerning cyber-security.
- I. Update from the Mapping Consultant activities.
 - 1. Status of mappin software training for the Commissioners, staff, and legal counsel.

Executive Director Schmitt introduces and welcomes the Public Information Officer, Michelle Crank to the team. Ms. Crank introduces herself and looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Commission.

Schmitt advises the Commission that the office move date is scheduled for June 22nd. The state budget is still working its way through the legislature. IRC budget information will be forthcoming to the Commission, which will include initial legal bills and mapping expenses to be paid prior to the end of fiscal year.

The Deputy Director and the Outreach Coordinator positions have been posted and are "open

until filled”. Commissioner Lerner asks how soon the resume review process will begin. Schmitt states that within one to two weeks, depending on the amount of applications received.

The IT migration project has had a setback. The vendor that was selected by ASET (Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology) for the IRC, has recently signed an exclusivity agreement with Google, so they now only migrate people to Google, not Microsoft. Director Schmitt is working with ASET to find a vendor to perform the migration.

The Public Records Request form will be available to the public on the IRC website shortly. Commissioner Lerner asks if it is possible to also post the meeting transcripts to the website. Legal counsel advises that the last Commission did post their transcripts, but were not timely and was an issue. The transcripts, once posted, become a public document, and there are concerns with consistency and having to be legally reviewed to make sure they match up with what the public record actually is. Legal counsel states there possibly could be a disclaimer added, to not rely on the transcripts, but rather the video, which is a true thing. Another point is the costs to ensure there is consistency between the audio and the transcripts. The legal team will look into a disclaimer option.

Executive Director Schmitt asks the Commission for input on the tentative traveling schedule so he may work on finalizing a plan. The Commissioners gave the following input: Begin the Listening Tour after July 1st, include evening, afternoon and weekend meetings (both Saturday’s and Sunday’s), condense the tour, rather than spreading the meetings out. Hold additional meetings in larger populated areas, keep the business meetings separate from Listening Tour meetings, satellite location options, develop a structured meeting plan, with basic parameters on how the meeting will be run. Allow people who live in the area of the meeting speaking priority, voting options, security, ADA compliance, sign language options and interpreters.

Chair-Person Neuberg asks the Public Information Officer, Ms. Crank what the strategy is to ensure the Commission is touching all areas of the state. Ms. Crank advises using an aggressive approach with media, press releases and exploring social media options, Executive Director Schmitt also suggests reaching out to local reporters to inquire if they would like to do interviews with any of the Commissioners, to help get the word out.

At the suggestion of the legal team, Schmitt has invited the State Chief Information Security Officer to talk to the Commission about security, and what resources are available to the IRC to keep the data secure, once received.

Mandated state training has been completed by existing staff members. Ms. Crank is working on completing hers.

Schmitt is working with the mapping Consultant to schedule a training with ESRI for the Commissioners, staff and legal counsel within the next couple of weeks.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action regarding invitation to Legislative Leaders to present on Constitutional criteria and role of Legislature report.

Commissioner Mehl agrees with the numerous public comments that having the legislature present is not a good idea. It is their official role to meet with the Commission after the draft maps are presented, but to have them sooner is not wise. Vice-Chair Watchman agrees that the legislature has their statutory role, and the commission needs to maintain their independence. Commissioner Lerner agrees, and invites them to attend one of the public meetings which would be an appropriate time for any elected official to participate. Commissioner York agrees with the previous comments.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action on Legal Counsel Briefing.

- A. Public Records/Records Retention (Attachment B), and Open Meeting Law Compliance (Attachment C), approval for public posting.
- B. Status Report on Ethics Guidance.
- C. Status of Stock IRC Presentation discussion and/or approval.

Commissioner Mehls moves to approve the Guidance on Public Records/Records Retention (attachments B) and Open Meeting Law Guidance (attachment C), Commissioner York seconds and the motion is unanimously approved 5-0.

Legal Counsel advises that the stock IRC presentation is designed to be an informational document and a conversation starter at meetings and would like feedback before it is finalized and a vote is not needed as this is considered an administrative action.

Commissioner Mehl moves to go into Executive Session to obtain legal advice on Ethics Guidance, Vice-Chair Watchman seconds the motion. The motion is approved 5-0.

The Commissioners discussed adhering to the Arizona State House of Representative guidelines and how these guidelines translate into their daily lives. Commissioner Mehl makes a motion to redirect counsel to conform the house rules for this Commission, and any Commissioner who would like to make an amendment, to present it at next week's meeting. Commissioner Yorks seconds the motion. The motion is approved 5-0.

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

- A. Status of State Demographer's presentation.
- B. Status of retaining Arizona professor to discuss impact of privacy differential action by US Census on Arizona Data.

The legal team advises that the State Demographer has been scheduled to present at the June 22nd meeting. They are currently in the process of finalizing the request to have the ASU professor speak about Differential Privacy and will have more to report next week.

IX. Discussion of future agenda item requests.

Commissioner Lerner inquires when the Mapping Consultants will attend a Commission meeting, as there are more questions, and as the Commission is working through scheduling the public meetings, it would be helpful to have their input. Mehl suggests engaging the mapping consultants to assist with making the travel schedule as they are experienced in this matter.

X. Discussion and Possible Action on the Scheduling of future meetings.

The Commission is planning on meeting on Tuesdays at 8:00AM for future meetings, and the travel schedule is in flux.

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

The meetings will take place at 8:00am every Tuesday for the next few weeks.

XI. Announcements:

A. Next meeting date.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2021 at 8:00am.

XII. Closing of Public Comments:

Public comments are closed at 9:52am.

XII. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn is made by Commissioner Lerner, Commissioner York seconds the motion. The Commission votes to adjourn 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53am.