

June 7, 2001 Minutes
Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission
Public Session

June 7, 2001, 7:00 a.m.

Public Hearing; Minutes of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission
4949 East Lincoln Drive, Sonoran Room, Paradise Valley, Arizona

Commissioners present: Chairman Steven W. Lynn; Commissioner James R. Huntwork; Commissioner Joshua M. Hall; Commissioner Andi Minkoff; Commissioner Daniel R. Elder.

Staff present: Executive Director Enrique Medina Ochoa; Adolfo Echeveste; Amy Rezzonico.

Counsel: Lisa T. Hauser and Jose de Jesus Rivera.

Auxiliary staff present: Lisa A. Nance, RPR, CCR, court reporter with Atwood Reporting.

Consultants Present: Florence Adams; Marguerite Mary Leoni; Chris Hutchison; Marion Porch; Tim Johnson.

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 a.m.

Call to the Public:

Speakers: No one indicated a desire to speak at this time.

Minutes:

Approval of minutes for May 18th and all previously unapproved minutes was deferred. Previously deferred minutes are April 5 and May 13.

Mr. Ochoa pointed out that he provided all the previous minutes for all past meetings in the Commissioner's folders.

Agenda Item IV: Legal Counsel.

Pursuant to 38-431, executive session for advice from counsel was requested.

MSC to go into Executive Session.

(Whereupon, the Commission went into Executive Session from 7:35 until 9:15 a.m.)

Public Session Resumed.

MS to review the rules for the grid plan prior to reviewing the grid plan or grid.

Discussion on the motion.

It was discussed and pointed out by Ms. Leoni that there was one area of discretion in the rules that NDC applied to promote equal population and/or grid-likeness; additionally, that this one area of discretion was always able to be pointed out.

The question was called.

Vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Agenda Item IV:

Dr. Adams presented a Power Point to demonstrate the directions and rules given by the IRC to NDC as NDC understood them and as they have now been boiled down by NDC into six rules which are shown in the Power Point (and distributed to the Commissioners in a handout – attached).

MSC to accept the rules as presented by NDC.

NDC was asked if they had prepared a grid. They responded that they had. NDC Counsel was asked if the Commission had accepted the grid by the previous motion. It was indicated they had except for the areas of discretion Ms. Leoni had previously identified. She was asked to expound on who had done the items of discretion indicated and how they were done. Ms. Leoni of NDC indicated it was done by the Commission's consultants. Decisions were made exclusively based on population and a test called the intraocular test performed by several people within NDC, including Dr. Hardy.

MSC to look at the grid.

The grid was explained by use of a Power Point by NDC.

MSC to approve the grid for the purpose of acknowledging that this complies with the rules that were approved previously.

NDC went through the area citizen kits with a brief Power Point. Dr. Adams questioned the Commission on whether the equal population grids should be included in the area citizen kits.

Discussion was had by the Commission on the point of whether to include the equal population grids in the area citizen kits. Discussion centered on while it certainly was public information and should be available the Commission did not want to confuse the focus of development of the community of interest information.

MSC the Commission not include the grid as part of the citizen kit, to be included in public mediums for input only.

NDC was asked to add the grid to the Power Point presentation and the rules to the end of the slides that would be presented at the public outreach meetings.

NDC was thanked for their hard and timely work on behalf of the Commission.

Agenda Item VI, Executive Director's Report:

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Mr. Ochoa presented information on who and what staff will be attending what meetings to help the Commissioners in terms of staffing. He included a translation of the Citizen Input Form. Other documents were included in the Commissioners' packets from the Director, including resumes of the outreach people that have been hired to assist in the work.

Mr. Ochoa asked if the Commissioners wanted to address the second phase of the outreach effort now or wait until a week of meetings were under their belt to see how things had gone in the first round. The consensus was to wait.

Regarding budget, Mr. Ochoa reported that while there is an ISA with the Boards and Commission Accounting Agency, Ms. Lori Meeks is on vacation until Monday, June 11, 2001.

Mr. Ochoa indicated the website is getting more hits. It's now up to 800 or so.

It was indicated that Fridays would be kept free for Commission meetings.

Mr. Echeveste addressed the Commission and indicated that the public had indicated to him a desire that there be a small window of opportunity for a final comment period of several days after the final map is prepared.

Discussion was that the second round of meeting would begin somewhere around the 17th to 23rd of July. Discussion was had of various dates for the submission of plans to meet the target for final submission.

Call To The Public:

Jim Hartdegen spoke. He indicated it would be nice to get the information on the rules, handouts, information on disk or in electronic form for ease of reproduction.

Bart Turner spoke. He spoke out mentioning concern that the Commission was not going to provide the public with the grid in the citizen kits. He indicated he felt the grids should have been available today. He indicated not everyone has access to newspapers or the internet.

Mara Kelly spoke. She requested hard copies of the grid and inquired how timely will the internet site be in terms of updates.

Chris Wagner spoke. He requested the Commission put the grid/maps on the internet in native files so that people with software could use their own software.

(Whereupon, the Commission recessed until 2:00 p.m.)

(Present were: Chairman Steven Lynn, Daniel Elder, Joshua Hall, Lisa Hauser, Lisa Nance, and Tim Johnson.)

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The Commission reconvened in the Apache Room for a Joint Meeting with the Arizona County Recorders and Election Officials. The County Recorders and Election Officials by county indicated their specific concerns in the redistricting process and ways in which they were willing or able to help the Commission in the outreach efforts.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by Lisa Nance