

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
3/16/2021 15:17:47	March 16, 2021	Re-interviweing of candidates	María-Elena Dunn	86303		Will commissioners have reviewed public comments submitted this morning before going on to re-interview some (all?) the candidates? Hopefully so, as the comments surely address questions the public has re the qualifications of the applicants.
3/16/2021 15:18:59	March 16, 2021	Selection of Executive Dorector	Debra Logam	85614	Self	I have a concern regarding the applicant for Executive Director Brian Schmitt. In my humble opinion, Brian would be too partisan to hold this position. It is imperative that this commission do as much as they can to keep themselves and their decisions as bi-partisan as they possibly can.
3/16/2021 15:20:38	March 16, 2021	Executive Director Selection	Ted Hiserodt	85020	Self	I implore the Commissioners to select the candidate who has the best experience combined with the utmost impartiality to lead the IRC staff and operations as Executive Director. It is disappointing to see at least two GOP political operatives make the final cut for the E.D. position. The eyes of the world are watching Arizona. The selection of either Trevor Abarzua or Brian Schmitt would signal that Arizona's redistricting process is neither independent nor fair.
3/16/2021 15:24:42	March 16, 2021	II. Opportunity for Public Comments	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voters of Arizona	Thank you for your continued commitment to providing opportunities for public input throughout the redistricting process. As you have said, public engagement is critical to confidence in the openness and fairness of that process. I urge the Commission to establish a system for the public to submit comments outside the limits of the IRC meetings. The current system handicaps individuals who work or have other commitments during the IRC meeting times. Being able to view meeting recordings and then comment at non-meeting times would be more equitable for all Arizona residents.
3/16/2021 15:32:59	March 16, 2021	Hiring of Executive Director	Suzanne Mead	85331	myself	<p>As a former executive in the challenging environments of a political non-profit and a fast-growing national corporation, I know that an organization's success relies on the depth and breadth of a manager's experience. The more complex a manager's job, the more important that he or she be ready to run from day one.</p> <p>Given the complexity and urgency of the IRC's mission, I feel strongly that the executive director should have deep management experience in the areas identified as critical for the IRC. For that reason, I believe that candidates Gomez, and Hartsell should be given serious consideration for the position of Executive Director.</p> <p>I also feel that the political sensitivity of redistricting and the commitment to fair and equal representation that it demands, require a candidate whose career has not been centered on advocacy for any one political party or candidate. I also believe years of experience managing a staff, working with diverse stakeholders and extensive knowledge of the state and its geographic realities are critical in this supporting role. For that reason, I believe that candidates Schmitt and Abarzua should be seriously scrutinized and possibly excluded for their partisanship and lack of experience.</p>
3/16/2021 15:44:58	March 16, 2021	IRC Executive Session	Lynn Peters	85374	self	It is 3:42 pm of a 3 pm meeting and you are i executive session much too long. Get back to the pubic to discuss your issues. Where is the transparency in a meeting that has a 45 minutes executive session at the beginning? So much for public involvement.
3/16/2021 15:56:13	March 16, 2021	Re interviews of Ex Dir candidates	María-Elena Dunn	86303		Re Schmitt - whether it was a favor to a friend, it was a political act and he was paid for it so it is not something you skip in your resume unless you know that it would not look too good.
3/16/2021 16:06:56	March 16, 2021	Afternoon Interviews	Maria Lynam	86301	self	Mr. Schmitt's "One off", when he was paid over \$63,000 for helping a friend and not being on his resume is unconscionable. Mr. Aberzua is the best qualified person for the job!
3/16/2021 16:08:22	March 16, 2021	Exec Dir - re-interviews	Maria-Elena Dunn	86303		A commissioner has described Schmitt as perhaps shy and someone who would do the Commission's bidding rather than try to usurp policy concerns. Well, in fact, it appears to me that in fact he is just not the personality necessary to be, not infrequently, the face of the commission....And, to manage a very diverse group of staff with specialties (mapping, legal, etc.) that might require some strong guidance.

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3/16/2021 16:16:30	March 16, 2021	V. Discussion and Possible Action on Executive Director interviews	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	It seems that the Republican commissioners seem very concerned by the previous political activities of candidates who may have associated with Democrats in their past, but have nothing but praise for those with ties to Republican campaigns or politicians. This is particularly problematic when you consider that the final candidate actually applied to be one of the Republican commissioners for the IRC. It's hard to believe that selecting him for the ED position would appear to be anything other than bringing on a 3rd Republican commissioner. Even though he would not have a vote, his power to influence the direction of the commission toward a Republican bias seriously damages the confidence that Arizonans can have in the work the commission is responsible for undertaking on their behalf. While it is true that all of the candidates have some connection to one or the other of the political parties, it is one thing to come to the table having worked WITH people associated with a party vs. coming to the table AS a partisan.
3/16/2021 16:16:39	March 16, 2021	Exec Dir - reinterviews	María-Elena Dunn	86303		Again, on Schmitt - someone who has such deep connections to McCain and could not come up with one personal example Also, who has integrity (as just described) yet who omitted something rather important from his resume?
3/16/2021 16:21:15	March 16, 2021	Hiring an Executive Director	Crystal Bazarnic	85085		I have been listening to the meeting, and I am very impressed by the seriousness with which the commissioners are taking this process, so thank you. I appreciate the work you are doing, and I believe in the chair's commitment to put process above political ideologies. I would like to see that strength continue as we all move forward together in this process.
3/16/2021 16:57:52	March 16, 2021	Executive Director	Terry Marchione	85739	Self	I have spent 6 hours watching/listening to the meeting today. Everytime something important is to be discussed you retreat to an executive session. This does not meet the smell test
3/16/2021 17:03:07	March 16, 2021	Executive Director	Terry Marchione	85739	Self	Obviously the executive session at the 3:00 meeting goes well beyond the need for an executive session. What is going on behind closed doors? The notion of kumbaya that seems to be desired is falling short of that goal.
3/16/2021 17:10:04	March 16, 2021	Executive Sessions	Terry Marchione	85739	Self	What happened to the notion of transparency?
3/16/2021 17:19:41	March 16, 2021	Exec Dir - selection	María-Elena Dunn	86303		Hope the long Exec Session is not indicative of a major rift. AND I truly hope that B Schmitt is not under consideration at all since his lack of full disclosure should have been an automatic disqualification. No ands, ifs nor buts. His one off explanation was lame. He was paid for a partisan job and not that long ago. End of story.