

MINUTES

CITY CHARTER AND DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

OLD CITY HALL, 510 GREENE STREET

WORKSHOP, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012

A workshop meeting of the City Charter and District Boundary Review Committee of the City of Key West, Florida was held in Commission Chambers, Old City Hall, on Thursday, March 22, 2012.

Madam Chair Virginia Panico called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Answering roll call were Robert Harvey, Perry Johnston, Clark Knight, Bill Lilley, Tom Milone, Philip Schaeffer and Chair Virginia Panico.

Also present were City Attorney Shawn Smith, Commissioner Jimmy Weekley, Deputy City Clerk Angela Budde and City Clerk Cheri Smith.

The pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was given by all present.

Madam Chair Panico recognized Commissioners Johnston, Lopez, Rossi and Weekley in the audience.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAPS

Madam Chair Panico read the title of the item and Mr. Schaeffer introduced the item.

Mr. Schaeffer advised he would be bringing forth on the April 26 agenda a motion to restrict our consideration to approving the six (6) Single Member District maps and disregard the at large maps.

Mr. Johnston asked the City Attorney to review the Charter changes and the redistricting changes.

The City Attorney reported the Committee is faced with changes to redistricting due to the Census but also faced with changes to the Charter. City Attorney Smith explained all of the Charter items have to go first to the City Commission who will vote to put them on a ballot and then the changes will go to the voters. Any changes made to the manner of an Election has to go through the Department of Justice (DOJ) and what the DOJ are tasked to do is review any proposed voting changes to ensure there is no deny or bridge the right to vote on the account of Race, Color, Membership and Language Minority. Until that is done, there will be no change.

Mr. Milone inquired to the City Attorney if the Committee should take in account the Voting Rights Act and the voting age population. City Attorney Smith explained the Supervisor of Elections office would be able to provide the City in short order if the Committee chooses to ask for the statistics.

City Planner Craig reviewed the District maps and their options of redrawing the lines in the six (6) districts with the Committee. The maps were made available to the Committee and the public as a handout at this meeting.

The following people spoke on the matter:

Reverend Dr. Darryl Robinson, Big Coppitt
Mark Songer, 1310 Newton
George Lennox, 817 Terry Lane
Eleby, 519 E Truman Annex
Margaret Romero, 1615 Washington Street
Yul Knighten, 201 Coppitt Road
Commissioner Clayton Lopez
Glenwood Lopez, 396 Baldo Street
City Planner Craig
City Attorney Smith

Mr. Milone stated for the record he supports the Status Quo that retains the 6 – 1 model with the Mayor at Large.

Mr. Lilley asked the City Planner to review how the district lines were developed and drawn by staff. He explained the Census was the starting point for redrawing the district lines and staff went block to block trying to square up boundaries and make more compact with the

racial balance and population in account. The staff used Monroe County's software program used throughout the United States. This program takes the data from the Census and creates the different scenarios of district boundaries which the City Planner explained made the process much easier and quicker than decades ago when this process was done by hand and took months to complete.

Mr. Schaeffer thanked everyone in the audience for attending the meeting.

Mr. Johnston opined the importance of long term citywide strategic planning needs to continue.

Mr. Harvey asked the City Planner if Voter Registration was considered in calculating the population size for each district. The City Planner replied the City of Key West is non-partisan and the requirement of party affiliation is not important. He further explained if the City were to use the Voter Registration counts it would not be able to meet the other criteria as Race, Color, Membership and Language Minority as provided by the Census.

Commissioners Johnston and Weekley thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:


None

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Angela Budde.
Deputy City Clerk