

MINUTES

CITY CHARTER AND DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

OLD CITY HALL, 510 GREENE STREET

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012

A regular 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, January 26, 2012.

Madam Chair Virginia Panico called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

Committee Member Robert Harvey was absent.

Also present were Chief Assistant City Attorney Larry Erskine, City Planner Don Craig, Commissioners Clayton Lopez, Jimmy Weekley and Tony Yaniz, Senior Deputy Clerk Sue Harrison and City Clerk Cheri Smith.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Milone to approve the agenda. There were no objections.

ACTION ITEMS:

1 Approving Meeting Dates:

February 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

March 22, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

April 26, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

May 24, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

June 28, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Chair Panico stated the reason to change the meeting times to evening was to get more public input during the redistricting discussions. She wanted to see public service announcements in the press and on the radio. It was also suggested that more information be on the City's home page.

Mr. Milone requested the time for the February 23, 2012 meeting be changed to 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Milone and seconded by Mr. Lilley to approve the meeting dates as proposed changing the start time to 6:00 p.m. on February 23, 2012.

The Chair acknowledged the motion and second and asked for verbal approval. There was no objection.

2 District Boundary Map

Mr. Schaeffer introduced the item and stated the proposed ways to do the redistricting based on the 2010 census. Several maps showing the options had been provided to the Committee. The first option was to go with the six-member district as-is adjusting the lines to reflect the population changes, with the Mayor's seat at large (7 member Commission). The second option was to change the district make-up and the make-up of the City Commission to move to a four-member, single-member district with two seats at large and the Mayor at large (the 4-2-1 model - 7 member Commission). The third option was to shrink the Commission to four-single member districts with the Mayor at large (5 member Commission).

Don Craig, City Planner, discussed the maps that were before the Committee regarding the distribution of the population. He stated according to the U.S. Census there are 24,656 people in the community. When divided by 6 the number is 4,109 for equal population among the districts. He said that Districts 1 and 6 would gain population, Districts 2 and 3 would lose population and Districts 4 and 5 would be about the same within about 50. Each of the three options showed three different approaches to equalizing the population to just about equal. Mr. Craig gave credit to the County's GIS department

for development of the maps as the City does not yet have their GIS System in place. He said these three options met the requirements of preserving the minority population in District 6 and to create relatively compact geographic districts throughout the island.

Mr. Lilley asked Mr. Erskine about how these changes would impact the city and if there would be cost to the city by litigation as he understood this needed to be approved by the Justice Department. Mr. Erskine said the Department of Justice would have to sign off on any changes and they look at the same basic four issues being that any changes to the district lines were compact, were relatively the same population, were contiguous and did not deny any minority representation. What has been presented clearly addresses the population and all the options follow the guidelines.

Mr. Craig said that each map has a table that explains the population distribution within each newly drawn district.

The Committee discussed how to get the information regarding the district changes to the public.

Mr. Craig suggested getting information to the Committee at the next meeting on how best to proceed with getting the information to the public regarding the redistricting within the City. It was decided to hold a public workshop on March 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

The following people spoke on the matter:

Commissioner Tony Yaniz
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley
Robert Kelly, 1801 N. Roosevelt Boulevard
Dr. Kevin Lewis, 702 Whitehead Street
Mark Songer, 1310 Newton Street
Commissioner Clayton Lopez

It was moved by Mr. Schaeffer and seconded by Mr. Milone to change all future meeting times to 6:00 p.m. Chair Panico asked for objections and seeing none the meeting time was changed.

It was moved by Mr. Schaeffer and seconded by Mr. Lilly to postpone the item to the next meeting on February 23, 2011.

The Chair acknowledged the motion and second and asked for verbal approval. There were no objections.

3 Terms of Mayor

Mr. Schaeffer said this would be to consider changing the term of Mayor to be consistent with the terms of the Commissioners at four years. This would be related to moving the city elections to coincide with the gubernatorial and presidential election periods.

The following person spoke on the matter:

Commissioner Yaniz

It was moved by Mr. Schaeffer and seconded by Mr. Clark to change Section 3.01 to change the Mayor's term of office to four (4) years.

The Chair requested the Clerk call the roll.

Yeas: Committee Members Johnston, Knight and Schaeffer

Nay: Committee Members Lilley, Milone and Chair Panico

The motion failed due to the tied vote.

4 Moving Election Cycle

Mr. Schaeffer said each of the City's elections runs about \$50,000.000 and if they were to run with the gubernatorial and presidential election that expense would go away. Also, there would be and expected higher voter turnout. An adjustment would be to the terms of office of sitting and incoming officers would need to take place to synchronize the election cycles. The Utility Board elections would also need to be changed but this could be done by the State Legislature with assistance from Ron Saunders.

The following people spoke on the matter:

Mark Songer, 1310 Newton Street
Commissioner Weekley
Larry Erskine, Chief Assistant City Attorney

It was moved by Mr. Schaeffer and seconded by Mr. Milone to approve the change to the election cycle to coincide with the gubernatorial and presidential general election with clarification that the intent would be that the election would take place on the primary date of those general election years and that would then allow for any necessary run-off's to take place at the general election date and in both instances would be deferring the costs of any elections.

Under discussion, Commissioner Weekley commented that if there were only two people running for the office would they not run until the general election or would they run on the primary date which could be held in September.

Mr. Schaeffer and Mr. Milone approved the amended motion to add if there are only two candidates running for the same office it would go to the general election date.

The Chair requested the Clerk call the roll.

Yeas: Committee Members Johnston, Knight, Lilley, Milone, Schaeffer and Chair Panico

Nay: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were no comments from the public.


COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Mr. Lilley asked Commissioner Lopez (regarding the workshop) if he had any input as to make sure the community is informed. Commissioner Lopez mentioned workshops that had been held for the Truman Waterfront Project and his monthly district meetings were well attended. He would do what he could do to get the word out.

The next meeting date is set for February 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.


Susan P. Harrison, CMC
Senior Deputy Clerk