

**CITY OF PASADENA
REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE
MINUTES
PASADENA CITY HALL
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ROOM S249
MARCH 7, 2012
REGULAR MEETING**

OPENING The Chair called the regular meeting of the Redistricting Task Force to order at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL: William A. Crowfoot, Chair
Richard A. McDonald, Vice Chair
R. Michael Alvarez
Alan Caldwell
Wendelin Donahue
Alex Guerrero
James Marlatt
Mary Machado Schammel
Elizabeth S. Trussell

Staff: Mark Jomsky, City Clerk
Theresa Fuentes, Assistant City Attorney
Latasha McLemore, Recording Secretary
Douglas Johnson, Redistricting Consultant
David Ely, Redistricting Consultant
Sara Larson, Redistricting Consultant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES It was moved by Vice Chair McDonald, seconded by Member Marlatt, to approve the minutes of January 18, 2012, February 1, 2012, and February 15, 2012, as submitted. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: None)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ISSUES RELATED TO REDISTRICTING

No one appeared to provide public comment on general issues related to redistricting.

PUBLIC HEARING **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLAN/MAP FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, reported on 12 letters of correspondence received in response to the proposed redistricting map since the last Task Force meeting, with 10 letters submitted in opposition to changes to Council District 4, and 2 letters requesting the creation of a “downtown” City Council District.

Douglas Johnson, National Demographics Corporation, conducted a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the needed changes to the current City Council District Map (adopted in 2002), the modifications considered and/or endorsed by the Task Force at previous meetings during the redistricting process, and presented the Consultant's revision of the modified endorsed map (the revision referred to as the "Nelson Alley Plan") as a proposed redistricting map for recommendation to the City Council, and responded to questions.

The following individuals spoke on the proposed redistricting map ("Nelson Alley Plan"):

Jonathan Edwards, Downtown Pasadena Neighborhood Association, responded to statements made that the Downtown Pasadena Neighborhood Association's plan is premature, advised the Task Force to re-examine the issues, and voiced opposition to the proposed redistricting map.

David George Gevorkyan, Armenian National Committee, spoke in support of the presented Nelson Alley Plan, and thanked the Task Force for their work on redistricting, specifically relating to the Armenian community.

Jill Fosselman, Pasadena resident, urged the Task Force to carefully examine requests made to keep neighborhood associations in one City Council district and to determine if such requests for consolidation are from active neighborhood associations or from just one individual residing within a neighborhood association, and offered a slight modification to the proposed redistricting map.

Chris Fedukowski, Pasadena resident, expressed her support for the Downtown Pasadena Neighborhood Association's submitted plan.

Jack Levy, Pasadena resident, expressed his concerns regarding changes contemplated for City Council District 4 as part of the redistricting process, and also his appreciation for modifications made that allow his residence to remain in the District.

Harald Zechner, Pasadena resident, stated his concerns regarding the need to move residents from one City Council District into another, noting the unsettling nature of having had no voice in the election of that District's Councilmember.

At the conclusion of public comment, the Chair stated the following for the record:

“Based on previous discussions and determinations made by the Task Force over the course of the redistricting process, the following criteria were established as goals to meet in determining a redistricting map:

Criteria 1: Pursuant to City Charter Section 1201, the City of Pasadena must modify the boundaries of the districts from which Councilmembers are elected following each decennial census so that such districts are as nearly equal in population as practicable. In addition, the law requires that population equality, equal opportunity for participation and traditional districting principles be considered during redistricting.

Criteria 2: That the redistricting plan maintain the Colorado Boulevard boundary for City Council Districts to the greatest extent possible.

Criteria 3: That the plan protect Neighborhood Associations to the greatest extent possible.”

In response to the Chair’s statements, the Consultant stated that the deviation of the endorsed modified redistricting plan is 0.4%, and the Nelson Alley Plan is 0.8%. Assistant City Attorney Fuentes confirmed that these deviations in population are acceptable under applicable laws and the requirements stated in the City Charter.

Member Guerrero stated that the proposed redistricting map known as the Nelson Alley Plan addresses his concerns for District 2 and endorsed the modification as presented by the Consultant.

Member Marlatt, having worked with the Consultant separately, presented an alternative map reflecting changes that minimize the boundary shifts and impacts on District 4 (avoiding the need to move large numbers of residents into and out of District 4), and submitted it for consideration by the Task Force.

Following discussion regarding reasons/motivation in pursuing the alternative map presented by Mr. Marlatt, the disconnection and impact created for District 2 in crossing Colorado Boulevard as proposed by Mr. Marlatt’s plan, further review and discussion of the Nelson Alley Plan and the impacts it has on Districts 2 and 4, and general consensus by the Task Force to support the Nelson Alley Plan, Member Marlatt withdrew his alternative map and expressed support of the Nelson Alley Plan.

Vice Chair McDonald thanked the City Clerk, City Attorney, and City/KPAS staff for their professionalism and high level of integrity in assisting the Task Force in their Redistricting efforts. He also thanked Chair Crowfoot for all his hard work and professionalism in leading the Task Force.

Vice Chair McDonald addressed the Downtown Pasadena Neighborhood Association, stating his overall support for their efforts of improving the neighborhood in the General Plan and the Zoning Code. However, he noted that the Task Force's actions are bound by a number of legal criteria in relation to redistricting: equalization of population, communities of interest, and protecting the rights and representation of protected classes. He noted that the information presented by the supporters of the proposed downtown City Council District did not meet all of the legal criteria, and therefore, could not be supported. Lastly, he encouraged all Task Force members to support the proposed redistricting map.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Guerrero, seconded by Member Donahue, to find that all the stated goals (articulated above), have been met, and to approve the Nelson Alley Plan Redistricting Map for submittal as a recommended redistricting plan to the City Council.

AYES: Members Alvarez, Caldwell, Donahue, Guerrero, Marlatt, Schammel, Trussell, Vice Chair McDonald, Chair Crowfoot

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING THE PROCESS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Schammel, seconded by Member Trussell, to direct and authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to prepare, submit, and present the 2012 Redistricting Task Force final report to the City Council. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: None)

It was moved by Member Caldwell, seconded by Member Trussell, to authorize the Chair to sign the final minutes of the March 7, 2012 meeting on behalf of the Task Force. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: None)

COMMENTS FROM TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Member Trussell expressed her appreciation for working with the Task Force and gratitude for the learning experience.

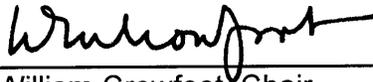
Member Guerrero mentioned that this experience has been both educational and rewarding, and thanked the City Clerk and City Attorney for their work.

Member Schammel stated her enjoyment in working with the Task Force, and thanked the Chair, Vice Chair, City Clerk, and City Attorney for their work.

Chair Crowfoot, expressed his appreciation and gratitude in working with the Task Force members, City Clerk, City Attorney, and staff. He thanked the members of the Redistricting Consultant team for their patience and hard work, and the Vice Chair for his work in aiding the Task Force through the process of achieving a proposal that is legal and harmonious.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Chair, the regular meeting of the Redistricting Task Force adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



William Crowfoot, Chair
Redistricting Task Force

ATTEST:



Mark Jomsky
City Clerk