



CITY OF READING

Redistricting Commission

Wednesday, November 11, 2021
Meeting Summary

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the public is prohibited from physically attending the meetings. The meetings can be viewed LIVE while the meeting is taking place via the Zoom link below, via the dial-in phone number and on Facebook. The recordings of the meeting will also be posted on the City's website after the meeting

Attending: M. Golembiewski, L. Olsen, T. Shade, P. Cianciosi, R. McLendon, L. Bellman, B. Kell, W. Bealer, L. Kelleher

Absent: H. Ruiz and N. Castro

Mr. Golembiewski welcomed everyone and noted that Ms. Castro was unavailable due to a work conflict and Mr. Ruiz is expected to connect via Zoom.

Mr. Golembiewski had all present introduce themselves and speak briefly about their goals for the redistricting process. He noted that the 7 members appointed by Council and the 2 members appointed by the Planning Commission are voting members. He and Ms. Kelleher are here only to provide support without a vote.

Overview of the Administrative Code Requirements

Mr. Golembiewski explained that the purpose of the group is to compare the old and new census information against the existing Council district boundaries and either recommend a revision to retention of the existing boundaries.

Mr. Golembiewski explained the provisions required by the Federal Redistricting Act and the local ordinance noting the need for revision recommendations to retain the continuity of neighborhoods, to try to work with the natural boundaries like rail lines, rivers, etc. without dividing the existing precincts, etc.

Discussion of Past Efforts, Process Used and Our Task Ahead

Mr. Golembiewski stated that the Commission can consider the population of existing voters or the total district population. He stated that the 2011 Commission used the total population, which is the best application as over the following 10 year period the number of voters will increase as youth reach the age of 18. He stated that while the Commission cannot consider party affiliation, they can consider demographic information. He noted that this census contains more specific demographic information than prior census results.

Mr. Golembiewski stated that the Administrative Code requires the Commission to complete its work and make a recommendation to City Council within 120 days. He stated that he assisted the 2011 Commission and that he and a Commission member both made recommendations that were evaluated by the full Commission and the Commission voted to recommend his plan to City Council, which was approved by City Council after the required public hearing. He showed the Commission the original configuration and that approved in early 2012.

Overview of Census Data to be Used

Mr. Golembiewski explained the detail of the census report which can be assembled onto spreadsheets for the Commissions use. He stated that it appears that there has been major population growth in Districts 6 and 2. He asked the Commission to send their requests for census information to him via email or telephone.

There was a question about how, why and when the precincts are changed or combined. Mr. Golembiewski and Ms. Kelleher will follow-up with the County Elections Board.

The Commission agreed with the need to have separate maps of each Council District that include street names and show overlap into the adjoining districts.

Mr. Golembiewski asked members to begin considering adjustments prior to the December 8th meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk