

REGULAR DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CENTER
1999 CITY CENTER CIRCLE
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 3, 2021

THE REGULAR DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING of the City of Port Orange was called to order by Chairman Stan Schmidt at 5:00pm.

Roll Call

Present: Stan Schmidt, Chair
Lance Green (arrived late)
Newton White
Tom Jordan
Bobby Ball (arrived late)
Ray Donadio
Kristine Cunningham
Debbie Connors
Marilyn Strout

Absent: John Junco (excused)

Also Present: Carly Meek, Assistant City Attorney
Robin Fenwick, City Clerk
Shelby Field, Assistant City Clerk
Tim Burman, Community Development Director

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2021

Motion was made to approve the October 6, 2021 minutes as presented by Commissioner Jordan and Seconded by Commissioner Connors. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. Discussion of Current Boundaries & Options for New District Boundaries

Robin Fenwick, City Clerk, provided an overview of the decision made at the previous meeting and a visual review of the options for new district boundaries compared to the current boundaries. Staff does not support Option 4 as it doesn't meet the criteria of maintaining the current district boundaries.

Tim Burman, Community Development Director, stated that in Staff's opinion Option 3 meets all required criteria the best and upon further inspection after the last Commission meeting, Option

4 does not. He explained that there was miscommunication at the previous meeting and the change in the 2010 district boundaries to present wasn't as drastic as indicated. Mrs. Fenwick showed the 2010 map compared to the 2011 map that was recommended by the then Districting Commission and adopted by City Council.

Both Commissioner Jordan and Chairman Schmidt inquired why Option 4 was presented at all if Staff does not recommend it and will not recommend it to Council. Staff responded that it may have been presented due to miscommunication and whatever option the Commission decides will go to Council as their recommendation, but Staff will not be recommending Option 4.

Commissioner Cunningham is concerned Option 4 will lead to too much confusion for voters. Discussion was held on the need for change and the fact the City votes city wide. Commissioner Cunningham reminded the Commission several members were also in favor of Option 3 at the previous meeting.

Commissioner White reviewed the required criteria and believes Option 4 follows more of them than the other options. He noted there have been drastic changes in the population since the last census so drastic changes are needed no matter what. Commissioner White believes Option 4 is still easy to understand especially since voting is city wide.

Mr. Burman responded it all depends on how you weigh the criteria and Option 3 balances them better than Option 4.

Commissioner Jordan was under the impression they were not supposed to weigh the criteria for importance of one over another and questioned if Staff would be bringing the Commission's recommendation to Council. Mr. Burman responded the Commission's recommendation would go to Council either way but if it is Option 4, Staff will clarify they recommend Option 3.

Commissioner Green does not see much deviation in the population in any of the options.

Carly Meek, Assistant City Attorney, clarified that the City Attorney's Office recommends Option 3 and does not support Option 4. The goal of the Commission is to maintain equal population, but it is also to maintain the current boundaries as much as possible. She believes it is easier for voters to understand the boundaries in place for the last 10+ years. Mrs. Meek counseled that if the decision is legally challenged the criteria is what the courts evaluate to determine if the decision was made in good faith.

Commissioner Ball thanked Staff for the clarification and discussion but still supports Option 4.

Commissioner Strout still likes Option 4 but also supports Option 1 as it keeps neighborhoods together.

Chairman Schmidt questioned why Staff is unhappy with the Commission's decision. Mr. Burman responded Staff is not unhappy with the decision, they simply believe Option 3 is a better option and wanted to make sure the previous decision was not made due to miscommunication.

Commissioner Donadio discussed the subjectiveness of the criteria and how Option 4 affects the largest number of people.

Motion to approve Option #4 as the new district boundaries was made by Commissioner Green and Seconded by Commissioner White.

Commissioner Donadio would like to make it clear he still does not support Option 4 and sees Options 1 and 3 as the best choices as they have the least amount of change.

Motion carried 6-3 with Commissioner Donadio, Commissioner Cunningham, and Commissioner Strout voting no.

4. Delegation of Approval of Meeting Minutes by Chairman

Motion to delegate approval of the meeting minutes by the Chairman was made by Commissioner White and Seconded by Commissioner Connors. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Reinlagen, citizen, is still in support of Option 4.

Kat Atwood, citizen, would like to know why District 3 and 4 are flipped on Option 4 and if that has to do with the current incumbents. Staff at the meeting was unsure; however, Mrs. Fenwick reviewed the maps and the incumbents for District 3 and 4 remain in their districts in Option 4. One of the guidelines provided was to take steps to avoid drawing incumbents out of their districts, which Staff attempted to accomplish along with the other guidelines.

D. ADJOURNMENT – 6:05 p.m.


Chairman Stan Schmidt