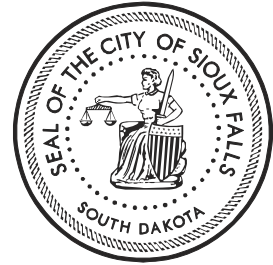


Minutes

Tuesday, October 28, 2008



Districting Commission

4:00 p.m.
Carnegie Town Hall
235 West Tenth Street

Members Present: Roger Berggren, Elaine Roberts, Joel Rosenthal, Susan M. Sabers and Vance Goldammer (arrived at 4:12 p.m.)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Clerk, Debra A. Owen, Assistant City Clerk, Tamara M. Jorgensen, and Assistant Director of Planning and Building Services, Jeff Schmitt

Guests: None

1. Call To Order

- Chairman Sabers called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes dated September 29, 2008

- A motion was made by Roberts and seconded by Berggren to approve the minutes. A voice vote was taken and all members present voted yes.

3. Open Discussion

- Chairperson Sabers was brought up to date on the following information covered at previous Districting Commission Meetings:
 - Schmitt explained the process that was used in the 2001 districting process. Per the Charter, whenever the population has a 15% increase since the last census was taken, it becomes necessary to re-evaluate and update existing districts. The last census taken was in 2001 and the population was 123,900; the last census population (2007) showed Sioux Falls at 151,000. The July, 2008 census will be available in July, 2009.
 - Schmitt further explained that the challenge is to set up the districts within the census boundaries that were previously set. We use the census blocks and geographic boundaries within the precincts to determine the boundary. In 2001 the districts were generally even with about 30,000 in each district.
 - Per the calendar commitments, the meetings and decisions will be completed by May; The final plan will be made available to the public in May, 2009; The public hearings will be held in July of 2009; A presentation plan will be made to the City Council in September, 2009.
 - The Central District needs to be increased; The Southwest District needs to be decreased.
 - The changes will be based on population numbers not registered voter numbers.

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- Future districting commissions will make appropriate changes to other districts. As the next census numbers are not available until July of 2009, the current numbers are being used from the July, 2008 census.
- The district changes that need to be made should make sense based on both the population changes and the geographical/landmark locations.
- Maps were distributed illustrating Options A, B, and C. Discussion continued with the following points :
 - Public perception and reaction to the proposed changes is sometimes based on how the neighbor/neighborhood relates to the new district or the new representative.
 - Two to three open houses can be planned to educate the public as much as possible in advance of the changes.
 - The City Council would like to be kept informed of the progress of the Districting Commission and presentations can be scheduled for future Informational Meetings.
 - Special focus and attention was given to the impact the changes would/could have on the diversity and socio/economic impact in the neighborhoods.
 - After much discussion, the decision was made to schedule two additional meetings. During the time lapse between meetings, the commissioners would review the options presented and be prepared to discuss or recommend future changes at the next meeting(s).

4. Scheduling future meetings

- The Commission members selected Monday, November 10, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday, November 25, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. as the next meeting dates.

5. Adjournment

- A motion was made by Roberts and seconded by Berggren to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. A voice vote was taken and all members present voted yes.

Tamara M. Jorgensen
Assistant City Clerk