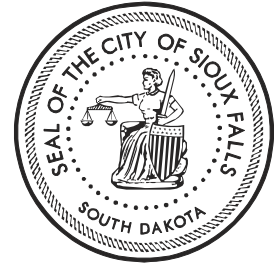


Minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 2008



Districting Commission

11:30 a.m.
Carnegie Town Hall
235 West Tenth Street

Members Present: Roger Berggren, Vance Goldammer, Elaine Roberts, Joel Rosenthal, and Susan M. Sabers

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: Minnehaha County Auditor, Sue Roust

1. Call To Order

- Chairperson Sabers called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes dated November 10, 2008

- The meeting previously scheduled for November 25, 2008, was cancelled.
- A motion was made by Rosenthal and seconded by Roberts to approve the minutes with the inclusion of the following amendment: "Goldammer requested a map showing the movement of 1-3 and 1-8 to the Northwest District."

3. Presentation and comments from Jeff Schmitt and/or Sue Roust regarding Options for consideration

- Discussion was held regarding the following topics:
 - Schmitt distributed copies of new maps which showed the population tables added to the left hand side to showing the existing districts with updated population estimates.

Map Option A has a table which states the population ranges of the Council Districts should be between 28,771 to 31,799.

The following numbers show which districts are not within the 5% range:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Central | 30,642 (low) |
| Northwest | 30,741 (high) |
| Northeast | 26,995 (low) |
| Southeast | 31,378 |
| Southwest | 34,521 (high) |

- Schmitt distributed a copy of the memorandum which discussed for proposes maps of D, E and F by various Commission members.

Option D – [Sabers]

A 'pie graph / wheel spoke' option (which splits the north districts and elongates the central district).

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Option E- [Goldammer]

Move the following precincts: 4-3 and 4-9 to the Central District, 5-12 and 5-13 to the Southeast District and 5-11 to the Southwest District and move 1-3 and 1-8 to Northwest.

Option F – [Berggren]

Move precincts 4-9 and 2-4 to the Central District.

- Rosenthal discussed the idea of changing the names that identify the Council Members Districts to numbers rather than Northwest District, Northeast District, Central District, Southwest District, and Southeast District.
- Owen informed the Commission that the City Council adopted an ordinance which stipulates that the districts are recognized by geographical names and identities.
- Rosenthal made the suggestion to approach the Council to change city ordinance and identify with the Districts by numbers rather than geographical identifiers.
- Owen responded that the Commission needs to complete their process by the end of April and thought the idea may have better success in a few years when a Districting Commission would have more time to propose changes of that magnitude to the Council.
- Schmitt discussed that previous Districting Commissions brought as many as 5 different options to public hearings for comment. He felt that bringing options to the public to view and comment on enabled better discussion and input from the public.
- Schmitt also discussed that past Districting Commissions brought as many as three options to the Council for discussion but only recommended one of the maps. This gave the Council options to choose from. Council has final approval of the maps.

4. Analyze information and maps most recently mailed. Discuss possible scenarios and alternatives. Discuss pros and cons of each map

Some notes on various options:

Option D:

- Schmitt gave a proposal that does not just show the central and the wheel spoke option. He tried to make the numbers work by going in five different directions at the same time; the numbers do work as being forced but do they meet the intent of the pie graph option. It does not have one district located in the center.
- Sue Roust informed the group that map Option D (which elongates the Central District into the North Districts) requires changing 16 precincts, which is an extraordinary amount of change.
- Owen expressed concern about map Option D which makes the aggregate length longer than any other district. In addition, Owen expressed concern about changing the character and entire boundary of the Central District.
- Rosenthal liked this one but had a question regarding what the sense was for time and distance requirements – how big is the district going to be regarding polling places and campaigning? Schmitt replied that it was reasonable distribution – the only thing you are changing is the central district and the other districts will have large areas to cover.
- Sabers did not dislike Option D but says the Central District grew to the north. She likes Option B but with a few small changes.

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- Goldammer thought this option looked better than he thought it would. He does not like precincts 5-12 and 5-13 hanging on the bottom; he would like to see precincts 5-10 and 5-11 moved and replace those with precinct 3-6 or take precincts 5-12 and 5-13 and trade them for precinct 2-4 dependent on the map.
- Rosenthal stated he has a concern that precinct 1-4 looks like it is in the southwest instead of the northwest.

Option F:

- Moved precincts 4-9 and 2-4 to the Central District. The legend indicates that the Central District numbers are still too high, the Northeast is too low but it does get closer to the intent of making the Central District larger.
 - Taking precincts 4-9 north and 2-4 south works. However, these two tweaks will be identical to Option C.
- Sabers recommended that the future meeting reflect the following two options: Move forward with one option showing the Central District as the core along with a pie graph backup chart – making both options as good as possible with appropriate rationale available. The following options will be available at the next scheduled meeting:
- Maps for Options G and H indicating requested changes:
 - Moving precinct 3-10 to Northwest;
 - Moving precincts 5-12 and 5-13 to Southeast;
 - Moving precincts 2-4 and 2-5 to Northeast;
 - Moving precinct 1-4 to Southwest;

5. Open Discussion

- None.

6. Scheduling future meetings

- Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.

7. Adjournment

- A motion and second was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Tamara M. Jorgensen
Assistant City Clerk