

City of Hyattsville — 2022 Redistricting Committee

October 24, 2022, 7:30 PM–8:30 PM — Virtual

MINUTES

In attendance: Jennifer Gafford, Greta Mosher, T. Carter Ross (Recorder), Andrew Sayer (Chair). **Staff:** Shakira Louimarre, Sekour Mason, Markus Tarjamo, Cindy Zork. **Regrets:** Leland Dudek, Alicia Sanchez Gill Freemyn, Krystil Smith, Cynthia Totten. **Guests:** David Marshall.

1. Roll Call

A quorum was noted and Chair Sayer called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. Attendance was registered.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the October 5, 2022, meeting were approved on a voice vote.

3. Review Final Comments

Ross reported on the comments received at the Oct. 17 public hearing and from Council, including calls to keep Suffrage Point in the same ward as the houses across Hamilton Street. Zork reiterated the support from council members about a preference for shifting away from census blocks. Chair Sayer relayed a casual conversation he had with a Census Bureau employee, noting that Census Bureau does redraw census blocks ahead of censuses, but there was less of that work done for the 2020 census due to pandemic and budgetary concerns. He learned it is possible for municipalities to request additional census data, but at a cost.

4. Final Map Adjustments

Chair Sayer provided a look at how the scenarios mentioned in the public hearing and council follow-up could be accommodated.

- North Point/Hamilton Manor swap with Ager Road Ward 4 extension (±48)
- Suffrage Point (and surrounds) to Ward 2 (±396) — noncompliant
- Hamilton Street north side to Ward 1 (±69)
- Ward 4 expands south (±542) — noncompliant
- Ward 5/West Hyattsville Sector Plan Area (±304)
- Additional Ward 5/West Hyattsville Sector Plan Area (±178)
- Restore Ward 2 cut out across Queen's Chapel (±445)

He noted that drawing a map that incorporated most of these changes would be possible, but it would lead to a large shift in population from Ward 2 to Ward 5 and would continue to leave some stray areas disconnected from other parts of the wards. It also would likely need to be undone in 2032 due to ongoing development.

In discussion, the commission agreed on a voice vote to develop Growth Conscious version 3 map with the North Point/Hamilton Manor apartment fix (and associated adjustments) along with putting Hamilton Street and Suffrage Point together in Ward 1. This would meet the goals of compactness and keeping communities together while maintaining balance to support future growth over the decade.

5. Final Recommendation to Council

The revised Growth Conscious version 3 map, the Minimal Adjustment map, and a memo outlining the commissions rationale will be developed for council consideration on Nov. 7. Chair Sayer will circulate the memo to the commission for feedback and comments.

6. Schedule Going Forward

Zork noted that the final maps and memo are due by Oct. 31, 2022, to be on the Nov. 7 agenda. Because of the changes must be enacted as an amendment of the City Charter, there is a need for a Public Hearing and formal presentation from the commission on Nov. 21, followed by a final vote on Dec. 5. The changes would then become final on Jan. 24. The Hello Hyattsville redistricting page will remain in active, but not accepting comments again until after council approves a map.

7. New Business

No new business was presented.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Sayer called for motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m., which was approved on a voice vote.