

City of Hyattsville — 2022 Redistricting Committee

October 5, 2022, 7:30 PM–8:30 PM — Virtual

MINUTES

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

1. Roll Call

A quorum was noted and Chair Sayer called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Attendance was registered.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the September 14, 2022, meeting were approved on a voice vote.

3. Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

Chair Sayer asked if it would be possible to have a table at the Zombie Run to solicit feedback. Zork will reach out to Hyattsville Elementary PTA to see if this would be possible. Sayer and Dudek said they would be available to staff a table. Ross and Gafford also said they would be involved with the race, but could stop by.

The Driskell Park dedication ceremony (October 8) does not have space for tables. Zork said she will ask about including space for the Redistricting Committee during the City Sustainability Plan Visioning event at the Hyattsville Branch Library on October 11.

4. Review Comments

a. Council Comments

Chair Sayer wrote to each councilmember to ask if they had any outstanding questions or comments and six replied. Most comments were generally in agreement with one or the other of the proposed maps. There were a few substantive suggestions around considering the county-defined West Hyattsville Sector Plan boundaries in drawing ward boundaries, as well as regarding two apartment blocks split between Wards 4 and 5.

In discussion evaluating the comments, concerns were raised about how shifting population from Ward 2 to Ward 5 in alignment with the sector plan boundaries would create wards that are out of the allowable population range and current development in Ward 5 would increase the imbalance. Additional questions were raised as to whether the county-defined boundaries were within the remit of the committee to consider.

The other issue raised was around the North Point Apartments Question was also pointed to the issue of the North Pointe Apartments and Hamilton Manor Apartments. Both apartment blocks have buildings split across two or more census blocks and currently and in both proposed plans those apartments remain partially in Ward 4 and

partially in Ward 5. In discussion, it was decided to determine the population in each of the census blocks in question to see if a clean swap could be made to unify each of the apartment blocks in a single ward, or if such efforts would necessitate additional changes elsewhere on the maps.

b. September 30 Ward 3 Check In

Committee members Sayer, Moser, and Gafford attended the check-in. Sayer noted that some people in attendance were aware of the redistricting process and had already submitted comments through other channels (email and Hello Hyattsville). Overall feedback was generally positive.

c. Other Public Comments

There have been a few comments from members of the public via Hello Hyattsville and/or email. Among the comments was a suggestion that Suffrage Point and the homes across Hamilton Street from the development remain in the same ward due to common interests. A question was raised about changing the structure of the council and wards, which is outside the purview of the committee. Another comment expressed confusion and annoyance as over the necessity of redistricting. Mosher noted that decennial redistricting is required by the City Charter. Seath raised an additional question about the feasibility of more radial boundary changes, such as using Jefferson Street and 38th Avenue as ward boundaries. In discussion, while those streets were reasonable boundary lines there were concerns that it would not yield population-size compliant wards.

5. Suggested Modifications for Presentation to Public

To prepare for the October 17 public hearing at 6 pm, the committee agreed to modify the presentation given before Council on September 19th to streamline some aspects. In particular, it was considered important to 1) Emphasize the rationale behind the process and its limitation, 2) Summarize public comments received thus far, 3) Request direction from Council as to next steps. Chair Sayer noted that it would be good to add a slide showing where development over the coming decade is under construction or planned in each ward. No new maps will be provided, but the committee would like to know the feasibility and impact of consolidating the split apartment communities.

6. Assignments and Next Steps

Because Chair Sayer will be travelling for work, Ross volunteered to make the presentation. Zork noted that the hearing is scheduled for 30 minutes but could run longer. A near-final version of the presentation is due by mid-day on October 10.

7. New Business

No new business was presented.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Sayer called for motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m., which was approved on a voice vote.