



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 6/29/2021
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom

Special Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Mueller (arrived at 6:34 p.m.), Nash, Taylor, Wolosin
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, City Attorney Nira F. Doherty, City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Study Session

C1. Consider establishing a hybrid independent redistricting commission for the upcoming redistricting process following the release of the 2020 Census results (Staff Report #21-137-CC) (Presentation)

City Clerk Judi Herren introduced the item.

GEOinovo Solutions Inc. Program Manager Luciane Musa, Project Manager Alex Sainz, and Demographer Jesus Garcia made the presentation (Attachment).

- Helen Grieco, Common Cause representative, spoke in support of an independent redistricting commission.
- Pamela Jones spoke in support of an independent redistricting commission.

The City Council discussed hybrid and independent commissions.

The City Council received clarification on differences of independent and hybrid commission and the processes and outreach, 2017 districting advisory commission process and public engagement, city attorney engagement with the various commissions, appointment process, and City Council powers and responsibilities in independent and hybrid.

The City Council directed staff to return with a recommendation for an independent redistricting commission.

D. Adjournment

Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of July 20, 2021.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE

On March 19, 2020, the Governor ordered a statewide stay-at-home order calling on all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the Governor has temporarily suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act. For the duration of the shelter in place order, the following public meeting protocols will apply.

Teleconference meeting: All members of the City Council, city staff, applicants, and members of the public will be participating by teleconference. To promote social distancing while allowing essential governmental functions to continue, the Governor has temporarily waived portions of the open meetings act and rules pertaining to teleconference meetings. This meeting is conducted in compliance with the Governor Executive Order N-25-20 issued March 12, 2020, and supplemental Executive Order N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020.

- How to participate in the closed session and regular meeting
 - Submit a written comment online up to 1-hour before the meeting start time:
menlopark.org/publiccommentJune29 *
 - Access the meeting real-time online at:
Zoom.us/join – Meeting ID 932 2768 7788
 - Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:
(669) 900-6833
Meeting ID 932 2768 7788
Press *9 to raise hand to speak

*Written public comments are accepted up to 1-hour before the meeting start time. Written messages are provided to the City Council at the appropriate time in their meeting.

- Watch meeting:
 - Cable television subscriber in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, and Palo Alto:
Channel 26
 - Online:
menlopark.org/streaming

Note: City Council closed sessions are not broadcast online or on television and public participation is limited to the beginning of closed session.

Subject to Change: Given the current public health emergency and the rapidly evolving federal, state, county and local orders, the format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website www.menlopark.org. The instructions for logging on to the webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information (menlopark.org/agenda).

According to City Council policy, all meetings of the City Council are to end by midnight unless there is a super majority vote taken by 11:00 p.m. to extend the meeting and identify the items to be considered after 11:00 p.m.



Demographic
Analysis and
Census Mapping
Study Session

Presentation

June 29, 2021



GEOinovo Team Intro



Program Manager



Luciane Musa

- Certified Geographic Information System Professional (GISP)
- 20 + years of experience
- OSHA Certified
- BA in Geography with emphasis in GIS
- Expert in Esri Product
- Expert in GIS
- Expert GeoEvent, real time mapping and analytics

President of GEOinovo Solutions



Demographer



Jesus Garcia

- 30 + years of experience in data analytics and GIS
- Masters in Urban Planning, UCLA
- Expert in Redistricting
- Subject-matter expert in over 20 California Voting Rights Act cases
- Moved district boundaries to comply with State and Federal Voting Rights Act
- Former Demographic Statistician, US Census Bureau, Population Division



Project Manager



Alex Sainz

- 13 years of experience
- Proven Project Management approach
- BA in Geography
- Expert in solution implementation
- Expert Data Manager
- Expert GIS Administrator
- Expert in supporting local government GIS projects



Study Session

- Goal: Inform City Council regarding key aspects of the redistricting process
- Overview of project schedule and tasks
- Presentation of map templates

Redistricting Options

- Independent Commission
- Advisory Commission
- Hybrid Commission
- Contract with County Redistricting Commission
- City Council

Redistricting Considerations

- Time commitment to execute the process
- Appearance of transparency and community engagement
- Compliance with federal and state voting laws

Commission

- Independent: Redistricting authority transferred to commission
- Advisory: Provide district boundary recommendations for consideration by City Council
- Hybrid: Recommends two or more redistricting maps for consideration by City Council – must select one.

Contract w/County Redistricting

- Option to contract with independent county-level redistricting commission
- San Mateo County does not have an independent redistricting commission – option not applicable to Menlo Park

Required to hold at least 3 public hearings

City Council

- City Council draws and approves districts
- Compliant with state voting laws
- Time-consuming for City Council
- Possible appearance of bias

Current Examples

- Independent Commission: City of Berkeley, Tulare County
- Hybrid Commission: City of Chula Vista
- City Council: City of Bakersfield

Community Engagement

- Important element of the redistricting process
- Commission with autonomy has the ability to enhance perception of transparency
- Hybrid: Retains community involvement, increased control by the board
- Non-Commission: Time constraints limit ability of the board to synthesize all community input

Transparency in Action

- Glossary of Terms
- Map of existing boundaries
- Links to federal and state laws
- Links to redistricting resources from outside organizations
- Digital dashboard and mapping

Federal Voting Rights Act

- Section II, Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965
- *" Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group" – [justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov)*

California Voting Rights Act (AB 182)

- *"...prohibits the use of an at-large election in a political subdivision if it would impair the ability of a protected class, as defined, to elect candidates of its choice or otherwise influence the outcome of an election."*
 - leginfo.legislature.ca.gov
- City of Menlo Park (not applicable).
City Council adopted district-based elections

California Fair Maps Act (AB 849)

- Encourage transparency throughout the redistricting process
- Applicable to city redistricting
- Collaborate with City to ensure redistricting process adheres to California Fair Maps Act

Redistricting Criteria AB 849

- Equal population
- State federal law
- Geographic contiguity
- Follow city and CDP geography
- Follow major features
- Geographic Compactness
- Exclude political party preferences
- Communities of Interest

Project Schedule

- Project Planning
- Community Engagement
- District Maps and Potential Boundaries
- Presentation Support
- Adoption of Final Map

Task 1: Project Planning

- Training/information on redistricting process, including applicable federal and state laws
- Assist City of Menlo Park with preparation of staff reports and presentation materials for public hearings
- Map template options for consideration

Task 2: Community Engagement

- Collaborate with City staff on preparation of staff reports and presentation material
- Deployment and training of Districtr.org digital mapping interface
- Collaborate with City for information gathering and input from Communities of Interest

Task 3: Review District Boundaries

- Evaluate existing council districts for population balance and race/ethnicity
- Evaluate existing council districts for adherence to Section II, Federal Voting Rights Act

Task 4: Presentation of Initial Maps

- Assist City of Menlo Park with preparation of staff reports and presentation materials for public hearings
- Presentation of initial maps and 1990 - 2020 US Census data – trends by city and council districts

Task 5: Adoption of Final Map

- Presentation of final maps for adoption
- Submit GIS data, block equivalency file, and other supporting materials to the City in requested format
- Assist City staff with submittal of adopted maps to County Registrar of Voters

Map Templates

- All templates designed for flexibility and ease of production
- Finalize / approve look and feel for production maps

DEMO

- [Districtr.org](https://www.districtr.org)
- ArcGIS Dashboard



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