

Town of Riverdale Park
Redistricting Committee Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
Chris Fike, Committee Member
Ifiok Inyang, Committee Member
Kate Kelly, Committee Member

Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Redistricting Committee Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Kelly made a motion to approve the Redistricting Committee Meeting agenda for August 11, 2022. Mr. Inyang seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstain
Chris Fike: Aye
Ifiok Inyang: Aye
Kate Kelly: Aye

Discussion:

There were no changes to the agenda or stated conflicts of interest.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Inyang made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2022, Redistricting Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kelly. Vote: 3-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstain
Chris Fike: Aye
Ifiok Inyang: Aye
Kate Kelly: Aye

Discussion Items

Populations of existing wards based on 2020 census

Mayor Thompson discussed the approximate populations of the existing wards and the target of 1,227 people per ward.

Ward 1: 1,490
Ward 2: 1,213
Ward 3: 1,111
Ward 4: 1,165
Ward 5: 1,205

Ward 6: 1,174

Mayor Thompson discussed problematic census blocks where there appeared to be discrepancies:

- Block where Crescent Cities Center is located
- Block on Baltimore Avenue (triangular shape)
- Block that contains Town Hall, two vacant houses and Riverdale Elementary School
- Block that contains Jefferson Hall apartments

Mayor Thompson discussed the process for the review of data for certain census blocks and the plan to pursue the review which would take approximately 90 days. Mr. Inyang asked what the census block review would likely include, and Mayor Thompson provided his thoughts.

Mr. Inyang asked how the per residence numbers were calculated and Mayor Thompson provided an overview.

Mr. Fike asked if there was a list of blocks that were currently split by ward and Mayor Thompson stated that he could generate a list. Mayor Thompson discussed the blocks that were currently split by ward.

There were no further questions or comments.

Possible communities of interest

Mayor Thompson asked for input from the members of the Redistricting Committee regarding possible communities of interest.

Mr. Fike stated that Ward 2 needed to expand further west towards the railroad tracks.

Mayor Thompson stated that because of the redistricting considerations discussed by Town Attorney Sussman, the crossing of a ward near the railroad tracks needed to happen at Town Center or the Cafritz bridge.

Mr. Inyang discussed the possibility of dividing Ward 1 and Ward 2 by East-West Highway, and Mayor Thompson discussed the populations of those areas.

Ms. Kelly discussed potential future developments and whether they would come to fruition. Mayor Thompson stated that it was difficult to determine.

Mr. Inyang asked about the acceptable variation between wards by percentage.

Mayor Thompson discussed holding Community Meetings and the need for input from residents in the current Ward 5 (potential community of interest).

Mayor Thompson also discussed the townhome communities in Town: Riverdale Park Station, Arts District, and Madison Hill as a potential community of interest.

Mr. Inyang asked about the crossing point for the Anacostia River and Mayor Thompson discussed the bridge at Riverdale Road.

Mayor Thompson reiterated that the Redistricting Committee could recommend a change in the number of wards.

Mayor Thompson asked if there were other communities of interest besides housing types.

Mr. Inyang stated that it may be helpful to identify pockets of certain ethnicities or races.

Mr. Inyang stated that he would also like to determine the plan of succession for redistricting in the future.

Mayor Thompson discussed his action items to be completed prior to the next meeting to include potential ward boundary adjustments and related populations, maps to identify race and ethnicity, and maps with minimal disruption to the current ward boundaries.

Mr. Fike suggested filtering the data by income levels and Mayor Thompson stated that he did not have it compiled currently but could compile it.

Mayor Thompson stated that wards should not deliberately divide residents with similar interests. Mr. Fike stated that the Committee should ensure that it is not done inadvertently.

Mayor Thompson discussed holding meetings with communities of interest in September and asked the Committee how many meetings should be held. Ms. Kelly suggested that the Committee meet in September prior to the Community Meetings to discuss potential scenarios.

Mr. Inyang asked about the benefits of the ward system and Mayor Thompson provided an overview.

Ms. Kelly suggested that it may make more sense to have some potential maps to discuss at the Community Meetings. Mayor Thompson stated that he would create some potential maps for the Committee's review.

New Business

There was no new business to be discussed.

Next Meeting

Ms. Kelly and Mayor Thompson discussed potential scheduling conflicts. Mr. Inyang stated that he would send his availability to the group via email.

Adjournment

Mr. Fike made a motion to adjourn the Redistricting Committee Meeting at 8:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kelly. Vote: 3-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstain

Chris Fike: Aye

Ifiok Inyang: Aye

Kate Kelly: Aye