



**CITY OF OAKLAND
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
(REGULAR MEETING)**

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 8, 2021
Via Teleconference

Redistricting Commissioners: Benjie Achtenberg, Amber Blackwell, Daniel Chesmore (Alternate), Gloria Crowell, Lilibeth Gangas, Shirley Gee, Stephanie Goode, Masoud Hamidi, Paul Marshall, Tracy Richmond McKnight, Diana Miller, Tejal Shah, Bharat Singh (Alternate) Jan Stevens, and Mary Velasco.

Commission website: www.oaklandca.gov/redistricting

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Quorum was determined and the meeting started at 5:07 pm.

Commissioners present: Benjie Achtenberg, Amber Blackwell (arrived at 5:12 pm), Gloria Crowell (arrived at 5:16 pm), Shirley Gee, Stephanie Goode, Masoud Hamidi, Paul Marshall, Tracy Richmond McKnight, Diana Miller, Tejal Shah, Jan Stevens, and Mary Velasco.

Commissioners excused: Lilibeth Gangas.

Commissioners absent: none

Alternate Commissioners present: Daniel Chesmore, Bharat Singh (arrived at 5:24 pm).

Alternate Commissioners absent: none

City staff present: Richard J. Luna, Corey Alvin.

City Attorney staff present: Mitesh Bhakta.

2. Open Forum

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:
Ralph Kanz

3. Disclosure Requirements by Commissioners

There were no disclosures by Commissioners.

There were no public comments on this item.

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4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes. A motion was made by Shirley Gee, seconded by Jan Stevens, to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 11, 2021. The motion passed with 11 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, Miller, Shah, Stevens, Velasco), one abstention (McKnight) and one excused (Gangas).

There were no public comments on this item.

5. Online Map Drawing and Outreach Training

Commissioners received a training from Sophia Garcia of Redistricting Partners on DistrictR, the online map drawing software that will be used by the public for submitting district map proposals and submitting boundaries for communities of interest. Commissioners engaged in a question and answer session with the consultants and City staff. Commissioners requested additional data sets be included in the base layers of the online mapping software, such as expanding on the race, ethnicity and demographic data in the existing model and adding publicly accessible data sets through Alameda County and the City of Oakland.

There was no action on this item.

There were no public comments on this item.

Commissioner Diana Miller was excused from the meeting at 6:00 pm.

A motion was made by Stephanie Goode, seconded by Gloria Crowell, to take item 9, Redistricting Testimony, out of order and to open the public hearing. The motion passed with 11 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Shah, Stevens, Velasco) and two excused (Gangas, Miller).

9. Redistricting Testimony

Co-Vice Chair Tejal Shah facilitated the public hearing by calling for testimony.

The following speakers provided public testimony:

Valerie A.
Lanica Garcia
Samuel Cheng

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Written comments were submitted by the following individuals or groups:
Myan Duong, on behalf of the Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay
Glenview Neighborhood Association
Mary Vail

A motion was made by Gloria Crowell, seconded by Jan Stevens, to close the public hearing. The motion passed with 11 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Shah, Stevens, Velasco) and two excused (Gangas, Miller).

6. Outreach Consultant Selection

City staff member Richard J. Luna provided staff's recommendation to engage with East Side Arts Alliance, and subcontractor Outreach by Design LLC, to serve as the Commission's outreach and engagement consultants for the 2021 redistricting process. The Commissioners engaged in a question and answer session with Elena Serrano of East Side Arts Alliance and Charisma Acey of Outreach by Design LLC.

A motion was made by Gloria Crowell, seconded by Stephanie Goode, to approve staff's recommendation in contracting with East Side Arts Alliance and Outreach by Design LLC. The motion passed with 11 ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Crowell, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, Marshall, McKnight, Shah, Stevens, Velasco) and two excused (Gangas, Miller).

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:
Merika Regan

7. Budget Update

City staff member Richard J. Luna stated the City is still closing out Fiscal Year 2020-21 finances and once that process is completed then a more precise number can be provided to the Commission on the total funds that could be carryforward to the current Fiscal Year 2021-22. Staff estimated \$23,000 would be eligible for carryforward and would provide an update to the Commission once that information was confirmed.

Chair Tracy Richmond McKnight requested the Commission receive information should additional funds be required to build additional data layers in DistrictR, the online mapping tool.

There was no action on this item.

There were no speakers on this item.

Commissioner Gloria Crowell exited the meeting at 6:30 pm.

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8. 2020 U.S. Census Report and Consultant Direction on Draft Maps

City staff member Richard J. Luna provided an update to the Commission that based on the initial 2020 U.S. Census data, there would be some shifts to the existing district boundaries based on population growth, primarily in Districts 3 and 7. City staff requested the Commission provide direction to Redistricting Partners, the Commission's technical consultants, on the number of draft maps the consultants should produce, including if the draft map proposals should consider and/or not consider the existing district boundaries.

Commissioners asked questions on the process for developing the new district boundaries, including the process in which the existing input would be factored into the first draft map proposals. Commissioners also questioned if there was enough community input received thus far to factor in testimony and communities of interest input in the initial draft maps that would be produced.

Commissioner Paul Marshall exited the meeting at 7:58 pm.

A motion was made by Stephanie Goode, seconded by Shirley Gee, to extend the meeting until 8:10 pm. The motion passed with nine ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Gee, Goode, Hamidi, McKnight, Shah, Stevens, Velasco), two not present (Crowell, Marshall) and two excused (Gangas, Miller).

Commissioners continued to discuss potential motions, including one recommended by Commissioner Shirley Gee to direct the consultants to develop draft maps that reflect community input up to this point, and additional input that will come forward, and that are based on current existing lines and alternatives that do not factor the existing district boundaries. In the recommendation, all draft maps would consider community input received by the Commission.

An alternative motion was developed by Commissioner Tejal Shah in that the draft maps would factor community input submitted to the Commission and another set would not consider any community input since the Commission had yet to receive communities of interest testimony from the majority of groups in Oakland.

A second motion was made Benjie Achtenberg, seconded by Jan Stevens, to extend the meeting until 8:30 pm. The motion passed with eight ayes (Achtenberg, Blackwell, Goode, Hamidi, McKnight, Shah, Stevens, Velasco), one abstention (Gee), two not present (Crowell, Marshall) and two excused (Gangas, Miller).

A third motion was made by Tejal Shah, seconded by Stephanie Goode, to direct the consultants to draw draft maps that comply with legislation, and that include and do not include existing public comments and communities of interest testimony, and that include and do not include existing district boundaries. The motion passed with eight ayes

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(Achtenberg, Blackwell, Goode, Hamidi, McKnight, Shah, Stevens, Velasco), one abstention (Gee), two not present (Crowell, Marshall) and two excused (Gangas, Miller).

Co-Vice Chair Tejal Shah exited the meeting at 8:13 pm, at which time the Commission lost quorum and no further items were discussed. The public was awarded time to speak on the remaining items on the agenda.

There were no public comments on this item.

9. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

This item was not discussed due to lack of quorum.

There were no speakers on this item.

10. Agenda Requests for Future Meetings

This item was not discussed due to lack of quorum.

There were no speakers on this item.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm due to lack of quorum.