PIMA COUNTY REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Thursday, February 17, 2022
3:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING

Committee Members Present
Steve Lynn, Chair, District 1
Dr. Augustine Romero, Vice Chair, District 5
Dr. Sylvia Lee, District 2
Larry Hecker, District 3
Frank Antenori, District 4 (joined at 3:10pm)

Committee Members Absent
None

1. Roll Call

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm with four members present and Nicole Fyffe, County Administrator’s Office, did roll call.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of February 2, 2022 Meeting Summary

MOTION: Mr. Hecker moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Romero, to approve the February 2, 2022 meeting summary. Motion approved 4-0, with Mr. Antenori not present.

4. Committee Redistricting Discussion, Objectives and Direction to Staff

Chairman Lynn stated that his intention was for this item to be a discussion of Committee objectives and what direction the Committee would like to give to staff. The first objective is to equalize population as close as possible, because of one-person one voter requirement in the Constitution. The second objective is to maintain voting rights for those in particular groups in the community who have been represented on the board and should continue to be represented based on information from the census and other information that may be provided. The Committee will receive input from a variety of sources and incorporate that which has merit. Chairman Lynn further stated his goal for an open and inclusive process, and that the Committee will reach consensus on a map. In addition, Chairman Lynn said the mapping platform should give Committee members a chance to try out configurations, and he asked that any maps or suggestions for changes be submitted to staff directly so they can be made available to all members at the same time for collective discussion.

Dr. Lee indicated that she found it helpful that staff provided map Options 1 and 2 as
a starting point, and that her goal, besides population balance, would perhaps be balancing the minority populations. Equal population would be 208,686 for each district. Dr. Lee further stated that Districts 1 and 4 have low minority populations compared to 2 and 5, with District 3 being in the middle, and asked Vice-Chair Romero how the Committee started last time.

Vice-Chair Romero explained that during the last redistricting effort, the Committee revised the existing boundaries of the districts on the edges, as opposed to recreating the districts in their entirety. He suggested starting with the two examples that staff provided, and trying some minor changes to see what makes sense with regard to parity and justice, and to avoid trying to recreate the wheel.

Chairman Lynn added that the final map or maps need to pass muster, and that may be achievable by making moderate to minimal changes. He concurred with the suggestion of looking first at the sample maps staff provided, getting a sense for how those changed the numbers, and if they are something the Committee want to consider or reject. Alternatively, or in addition, the Committee can make specific suggestions for precinct changes and staff can make that map for them to consider.

Mr. Hecker asked how many more meetings would be virtual versus meeting in person. Ms. Fyffe responded that staff can revisit this issue perhaps for the later meetings, but that at this time County committees are still meeting remotely. She did offer that larger scale maps showing current district boundaries and precincts can be mailed to Committee members to assist with reviews. Chairman Lynn requested that the current map and the options 1 and 2 maps be provided in hard copy as well and any other future maps. Ms. Fyffe added that the Board recently approved minor adjustments to the precincts as a result of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission approving lines that split precincts, and that any maps going forward would reflect these adjustments.

Chairman Lynn asked if there were further comments, and stated that the next step is to get the larger maps for the current districts and the two options that staff initially developed. In response to a question from Dr. Lee, Ms. Fyffe clarified that future map suggestions from individual Committee members be submitted first to staff (Ms. Fyffe and/or Ms. Durazo), who will in turn transmit the suggestions to the Committee as a whole.

5. DistrictR Mapping Tool Demonstration and Training

Erik Glenn, County GIS Analyst, presented the DistrictR mapping tool to the Committee, and demonstrated how to create and save maps, as well as how to share maps so that they become publically available on the County’s DistrictR page https://districtr.org/tag/pimaaz. The tool can be used by both Committee members and the public, with a choice on whether to make maps available publicly or not when saving. Mr. Glenn indicated that there are still a few edits needed, but that the tool is essentially available to be used by the Committee immediately. A public link on the County’s redistricting webpage will be made available soon. Chairman Lynn and Vice-Chair Romero asked that the current Board district map be added to DistrictR so that the Committee and public can start from there if they wish, as well as the two
staff options. Ms. Fyffe asked that if Committee members make maps that they would like considered by the Committee, that they send the map link to staff who will distribute to the Committee.

The Committee discussed additional data requests. Mr. Antenori requested that past voter performance for each voter precinct for the last two election cycles for presidential, congressional and state level races be imported into DistrictR or otherwise made available. Specifically, how many voters voted for each candidate by precinct to gage who voters in a particular precinct are voting for so that they can be given the representation that they want and deserve. Voter registration by party alone doesn’t give an indication of what the outcomes of elections might be in a district that the Committee may draw. Chairman Lynn added that assuming the Committee starts with the existing districts, this data would be most useful to assess the precincts around the edges of those districts. Mr. Glenn indicated he would need to discuss with DistrictR staff whether or not this can be made available in DistrictR.

Vice-Chair Romero asked that voter performance by race and ethnicity also be made available, beyond the race and ethnicity data that has currently been made available to the Committee. Chairman Lynn asked that staff bring back more information regarding these two data requests.

Ms. Fyffe pointed out that the maximum population deviation calculation on DistrictR is using a different calculation than what is required for County. DistrictR’s maximum population is showing the highest population deviation from the ‘ideal’ population number and not the difference between the highest and lowest populated districts.

Chairman Lynn stated that Dr. Lee sent in some precinct level changes by district that she may want the Committee to consider at some point.

Ms. Fyffe indicated that staff is looking into the possibility of adding precinct numbers in DistrictR. Chairman Lynn suggested that the hard copy maps that the Committee will receive could be used as a reference for precinct numbers if that is not possible.

6. Public Hearing

There were no requests to speak at this time.

7. Future Agenda Items

For the next meeting, March 2, Chairman Lynn reiterated that staff bring back information on Mr. Antenori’s and Vice-Chair Romero’s data requests, and upload the current district map and staff map options 1 and 2 onto DistrictR. Dr. Lee asked if the intention is at the next meeting to start plugging in some of the Committee’s ideas. Chairman Lynn responded that by the next meeting the Committee will have had an opportunity to look at the two maps in DistrictR and what they do compared to the current districts, and where there may be issues that need to be addressed. Then at some point the Committee will be able to identify a map that achieves the goals and vote on it and recommend it to the Board. Mr. Glenn confirmed that the
current Districts and two option maps could be added to DistrictR as soon as tomorrow (Friday).

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm

For a recording of the meeting, please visit the County’s redistricting webpage at www.pima.gov/CountyRedistricting for the February 17, 2022 Youtube recording link.