

City of Wichita Commission of Electors

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

5:30 P.M.

455 N. Main Street
Council Board Room
Wichita, Kansas 67202



Attendance

Members Present: Marcy Gregory – Online, John Whitmer – In Person, Javen Gonzalez – In Person, Lamont Anderson – In Person, Janet Johnson – In Person, Patrick Penn – Online/In Person

Members Absent: Joseph Dozier

City Staff: Sharon Dickrafe, Scott Wadle, Stephen Banks, Mike Kollmeyer, Dan Cramer, Naomi Shapiro, Kathy Sexton

Public Attendance: Vice Mayor Tuttle, Council Member Frye,

1. Welcome

- Marcey Gregory opened with welcome and thank you for everyone's participation

2. Meeting Notes

- Meeting Notes are still being worked on. To be tabled until next meeting.

3. Commission Procedures

- Committee Procedures: Proposed rules for motion handling and debate for the Wichita Commission of Electors, 2022. Emailed to all commission members.
- Open Discussion/Comment: The chair can always call recess.
- Motion to adopt Penn seconded by Whitmer. (Passed 5-0)

4. Process Overview

- Wadle gave a brief review

5. Public Input

- Naomi to present feedback: Not a lot of input has been provided but there are a lot of opportunities for people to engage.
- redistricting@wichita.gov – citizens can email questions directly
- forum.wichita.gov – For public engagement platform.
- Website has been revamped to include the dashboard on the city webpage. To provide all information at their fingertips.
- A possibility of turning on the survey so that the public can respond.
- Dion Leffler article that can be published in the Eagle about redistricting
- One of Dion's suggestions was the same as a map Mr. Anderson submitted.

- Opportunities for engagement and public questions can be submitted to staff or can reach out their council member, the mayor or district advisory board meetings.
- No Questions or comments
- Kollmeyer gave an update on the status of the public dashboard and modifications
 1. Making the help page is more accessible and making it stand out a little bit more.
 2. Embed the forum site into the dashboard. – Some challenges
 3. Created a hyperlink – Located at the bottom on the welcome tab that will launch the forum site.
 4. The redistricting site has everything with the dashboard embedded and the links to the forum. A one stop shop on the redistricting@wichita.gov has been created.
 5. On the maps and charts – added projected residential growth areas of 2035, peripherals of city limits that can be helpful for viewing different scenarios and protected growth area. There is a paragraph on the welcome page giving a small description to describe that layer. This can be accessed in the layers (turning off and on). Like you would the neighborhood and homeowner associations that were noted last week.
 6. Questions/Comments: Everything looked good. –
- Marcy Gregory No further questions or comments.

6. Concepts Maps Review

- Scenario 2a was a modification of committee scenario 2.
- 405 (southern part of Delano) got moved into six. All of Delano is in there as well as up north some modifications to 621, 603, and 632 that all moved into five covering the area. 11 precincts total and 9 of them with population figures to them.
- In the case of changes much like the previous scenario committee scenario two there were some neighborhood associations that were impacted by that.
- Delano which was previously represented by four and six is now solely represented by six.
- Fairfax was in three and now it is in both one and three Linwood was in one and has moved over to three Longview has moved from three to one and three and Schweiter and Schweiter East actually Schweiter was one and moved to three as well as Schweiter East that was split previously and one and three is now solely in council district three.
- The numbers themselves look close, the only one that's on the fringe area was out in council district four that's on the negative side, but there's potential for growth out there.
- The projected residential growth area there is some fringe areas out there on the outskirts that will grow over time, so we will be able to build up to that population figure over time.
- Committee member to make comment on this: *John Whitmer to comment*
- Attempted to incorporate the communities of interest things that like Committee member Javon Gonzalez had pointed out with Delano and some of the others. There were challenges in doing so but Delano was put back together in one council district and keep everything else almost of what you were able to accomplish with your original map.
- Moved a couple precincts in five and one or so in four. Editing my first map by using your base template.
- the only other major growth area is all in four but there is a ton of new development.
- Homes are being added in Turkey Creek, so they just finished their third development and this fourth one is massive. It is located at 135th and Pawnee and goes all the way to Kellogg.
- The entire area there all the way up to Kellogg and then there is a strip down Kellogg where they're doing single family and duplexes okay and some apartment complexes.
- No questions of comments

Press Scenario 1:

- A request to analyze a scenario that was provided within a Wichita op-ed there was two scenarios listed in the op-ed one of them was moving election district 205 or precinct 205 and there is also one that was moving precinct 207.
 - 207 that one is already represented in committee scenario three that we reviewed last week so if you choose to review back on the previous notes once they receive them or you can look at the streaming video to view.
 - 205 on press scenario one there was only one change, so it was down here in this area there is only one neighborhood association impacted by it which is East Ridge which is a common one for many of these scenarios.
 - Eastridge is now split so it is now represented by both three and two.
 - Two is solely representing Eastridge prior to this there is no homeowner associations impact in this either
 - The numbers themselves although they do fit within the tolerance there is a concern in the case of council district 2 because that is at 4.97 percent above the target.
 - If you look at the map and you actually turn on your projected growth, there's a lot of red out here a lot of growth out there and in actuality since 2011 there's already three new subdivisions that are single-family and multi-family homes that are coming in.
 - The housing count is unknown but that is something can be done.
 - There is a lot of growth on there so there is concern in the case of if it has not exceeded the 4.97 now, it will very soon.
 - There was no further discussion or scenarios to discuss.
- Plans for the exercise:
 - Presentation of maps
 - Discussion on different scenarios
 - Discussion on tweaks
 - Decision to be made transition into getting a sense of which people agree or in favor of.
 - Conducting an online survey
 - Survey form provided allows you to rank order each scenario by name.
 - Slots can be adjusted by rank
 - Ranking scenario created allows you to enter in your valid committee member email address that you provide for Stephen Banks to validate who you are. Then all you do is move things up and down in the case of what the scenarios are all the current ones that we presented tonight are available to you on this and in case you have any questions on particular scenarios and want to have a refresher on exactly what they are you can select scenario by view, and you can actually toggle through them.
 - Once you've reordered the way you'd like to rank the maps, then you would submit this and then we would calculate the values afterwards.
 - The will of the board is to mull it over and use the online scenario ranking form and then submit to staff to have them come back next week with our ranked map.
 - The scenario ranking form would be great just to get an idea where everyone's head's at and that would give us an obvious place to start eliminating some of the maps that none of the committee like.
 - To maintain everyone's rankings the question is whether there is the ability to see how people rank ordered them by individual not just as a collective group.
 - Each of the rankings themselves are saved out on a table that we would have to export out but certainly we can open it up to where allows them to make that information which helps.
 - A link can be sent, once it is all entered once we have ranked them it is going to take some process and once, we get the rankings back then we will have materials for you to review.
 - So, you have time to compile that information Mike, what do you think is a reasonable turnaround time for folks to get it submitted into Monday – Sunday?
 - The close of Monday would work to give us time to compile the results.

Other Discussions:

- The importance of public opinion and that fact that there has been lack of public input.
- Suggested that the City of Wichita to push out social media in hopes to getting more comments.
- Gonzalez: Emails from Riverside residents have been received with concern of being split up.
- Marcy Gregory: Suggests having Mr. Leffler place something in the paper and tell them you know if they have comments. This is to get more public input.
- **Anderson Comments:** Encouraged continuous communication with the DABs and through your various social media channels as well because I think that's one of the things that maybe folks aren't aware of but I don't think that we should just be dependent upon one platform to get out. I think that we should take the initiative to make sure that we're driving that narrative as well to make sure that we're also not just sitting back and waiting to get information but that we are being very diligent about reaching out to get it as well.
- **Penn Comments:** We need to be proactive in pushing this out ensuring that we get maximum participation from the community through the DABs. That is a mechanism that can be utilized. There is pause seeing as Mr. Leffler has shown himself to be quite partisan as of late inviting a very partisan hack into this situation if there is another mechanism that is more objective uh to glean any public input. I do not think that we need to tamper our efforts here with partisan hackery so I would be opposed to that particular solution. Mr. Leffler answer that on the body of evidence that is out there right now as he has attacked many members of this particular commission with partisan hackery. I'll leave it to you to decide whether or not it's the paper or just the individual but that's this body doesn't need to engage in that mess.
- **Gonzalez Comments:** Does not have any issue with the Wichita Eagle and disagrees with the partisan hackery comment.
- More lively discussion on this topic followed
- **Scott Wadle Comments:**
- A consensus is to use the survey tool and in addition to that is come back to the committee all with some ideas about how we can reach out to the public even more than what we are what we have identified so far and see what you all think about that at your next meeting.
- Naomi maybe get with you and talk about some of the social media posts that we could show examples of, or perhaps even something like an open house I'm not sure I'm just throwing out ideas. We'll consider those if you're in favor of this but I have received word from Stephen Banks who's done this a number of times and he's indicated that what's happened in the past is that public comments come slowly at the beginning but as you start to narrow down the focus on the number of maps that you will likely receive more public comments coming in as the public gets a sense of which ones you're kind of narrowing your focus down to.
- To add to is in talking about previous efforts at this you know in talking to Sharon last time I just want to emphasize that in the past there have been multiple options that have been recommended to the city council it's not necessarily just one so I just want to make sure that everyone understands that you don't have to get down to one preferred one if you choose but you can have multiple that you submit to the city council.
- In terms of public comments, I think we have heard that there's a desire to reach out to the public and get some more comments and we can speak to that at the next meeting.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 10th.
- Marcy Gregory to join virtually.
- **Motion to adjourn by Gonzalez seconded by Anderson.** (Passed 6-0).
- Meeting concludes