

Albany County Redistricting Commission [Minutes: April 25, 2022]

Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	Interns	MMD
Joan Ramsey	Nick Glass (ACRC)	Marie Allen Campbell
Warren E. Hamilton	Nassim Ramdani (MMD)	Constance Graves
Larry Volk		Dona Bulluck
Patricia Sibia		Dominic Mazza
Thomas Clingan	Guests:	Adrienne Kisse
Sita Subbaram	Jeffrey Wice	Larry Mauldin
Leif Hartmark	Priya Sankalia	
Julia Reeb	Ashley Tardif	
Mark McCumber	Marissa Zanfardino	

Chairman Volk convened the meeting at 4:02 PM and called the roll (see above.) Four sets of previous Minutes were approved (April 3,4,11, and 18). The milestone document was also approved by the commission.

The commission discussed the results of the mapping meeting on April 24th. This discussion covered issues related to trying to maintain the integrity of municipal and city boundaries. Questions were raised as to whether we thought it was necessary to update the definition of minority for inclusion in MMD districts. The preliminary report from Dr. Handley recommended maintaining the current level of MMD districts. The report showed that current MMDs are electing minority preferred candidates. Furthermore, it showed that other racial minority groups did not exist in sufficient numbers to require other districts and that we could not reasonably assume all minority groups were inclined to vote the same way. The MMD was going to try and see if ARCBridge would be able to put the MMD map in MORE for the commission to work from. This led to further discussion about our timeline for initial maps to ensure we are on schedule and to make sure the commission really takes public testimony into consideration. One commissioner brought up the possibility of recording and sharing mapping work sessions.

Commission discussed starting public outreach for future public hearings earlier than previously. This led to a vote where the commission decided both future public hearings would be hybrid on May 26th and June 16th and would start at 5:00pm with no set end time. The commission then made comments about how we do not have enough traffic coming to our website and need to consider alternative outreach strategies. This involved discussion about the potential of a press conference in the future or a press release. Individuals stated that they believed a press release before initial map releases could be advantageous. Others believed without the map the press release would not see the level of interest we want. The commission passed a motion to release a press release to the public and hold a press conference when we finish our initial map with 1 vote

against the motion. The commission then affirmed that it would have mapping sessions again on April 28th and May 1st.

The next regular ACRC meeting will be on May 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Nick Glass.