



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
2079 EAST NINTH STREET
COMMITTEE ROOM A – 4TH FLOOR
10:00 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CLERK OF COUNCIL

Clerk Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Richardson called the role. Commission members Robert Frost, Douglas Koesel, Kenneth Lumpkin and Sandra Morgan were in attendance and a quorum was determined.

[Commission member Cathlyn Murphy was acknowledged, as she joined the meeting via Zoom, but was not present for the purposes of a quorum, nor eligible to vote on any matter].

3. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

a) Introductions

Councilmember Jack Schron joined the meeting via Zoom and welcomed the Commission members; thanked them for volunteering; stated that the Commission represents the County for the next ten years with their decision and wished them the best of luck.

Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor and Mr. James Boyle, Policy Advisor gave brief introductory remarks and introduced Brendan Doyle, Special Counsel.

Michele Pomerantz, Director of Regional Collaboration attended on behalf of County Executive Armond Budish and welcomed the Commission and offered to provide any assistance needed.

Jerad Zibritosky, Assistant Law Director stated that he will be assisting Council as it relates to legal questions and thanked the members for serving on the Commission.

Ms. Andria Richardson, Clerk of Council introduced Ms. Janine Carter, Deputy Clerk and Ms. Ashley Johnson, Assistant Deputy Clerk. The Clerk staff will be providing administrative assistance as needed.

Mr. Boyle announced that all meetings are open to the public according to the Ohio Sunshine Laws and that they will also be recorded and livestreamed.

b) 2011 Districting Commission Review

Messrs. McAleer and Boyle presented an overview of the County's Districting Commission; defined the role, requirements, responsibilities, guidelines and goals of the commission members; indicated the Commission is an independent body that makes the final decision with regards to the new County Council Districts and emphasized County Council nor the County Executive can veto or change the decision of the Commission.

They referenced Cuyahoga County Charter Section 3.04 and touched upon redistricting and the principals for establishing District Boundaries; Cuyahoga County Code Section 206.07 regarding additional criteria established by County Council for the provision of district numbers for new larger Council Districts to ensure the numbers are consistent with the number of former districts having a larger number of residents in the new district once the districts have been reconfigured; mentioned the 2011 redistricting process where Council hired an independent consulting team to draft and create redistricting plans for the Commission in June of 2011 and the criteria adopted by the Districting commission and the final 2011 changes.

c) 2021 Timeline/Schedule Overview

Mr. McAleer stated that Council issued a Request for Qualifications for a redistricting Consultant and the bids are due Friday, August 6th; Council will make a recommendation to the County's Board of Control for approval; the goal is to have

the vendor selected and approved by August 16th and immediately connect the vendor with the Districting Commission as the Federal Government is expected to release the 2020 Census data by August 16th.

Mr. McAleer commented that The State of Ohio is on the same timeframe and is conducting their own redistricting process of redrawing the boundary lines for their own Districts including those in Cuyahoga County; and mentioned that the County Charter states the Districting Commission has 120 days to complete the process OR be completed by the time the state is done with their process.

The Commission informally agreed to use the criteria that the 2011 Districting Commission used with the consultant to help in redistricting.

Due to the condensed time frame Mr. Lumpkin suggested the Commission meet a minimum of twice a week. Ms. Morgan suggested that a meeting schedule be considered before the next meeting takes place. Ms. Murphy concurred.

Discussion ensued.

The Commission set the following schedule for meetings to take place at the Cuyahoga County Administration Building in Committee Room A on the 4th Floor. Mr. Frost suggested a public forum be held at the next meeting to seek public input, which will take place presumably in Council Chambers:

Tuesday, August 17th @ 3:00 PM (Public Forum)

Thursday, August 19th @ 3:00 PM

Monday, August 23rd @ 3:00 PM

Thursday, August 26th @ 3:00 pm

Monday, August 30th @ 3:00 pm (Tentative)

- d) Election of Officers - Chair / Vice-Chair

Mr. Koesel asked if Mr. Lumpkin would be willing to serve as Chair. Mr. Lumpkin stated that he would be honored but due to other obligations he unable to serve as Chair.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Richardson opened the floor for nominations for Chair. A motion was made by Ms. Morgan to nominate Mr. Frost and seconded. Hearing no further nominations, Koesel, Lumpkin and Morgan voted for Mr. Frost.

Mr. Robert Frost was elected as Chair of the Cuyahoga County Districting Commission. Murphy, who participated via Zoom but was not able to vote, was in agreement.

Ms. Richardson opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. A motion was made by Mr. Frost to nominate Ms. Morgan as Vice-Chair and seconded. Hearing no further nominations, Commission members Frost, Koesel and Lumpkin, voted for Ms. Morgan.

Ms. Sandra Morgan was elected as Vice-Chair of the Cuyahoga County Districting Commission, Murphy, who participated via Zoom but was not able to vote, was in agreement.

Council President Jones thanked the members for serving on the Commission; shared the process on how the members were selected; stated that he will provide all the resources necessary for the members to carry out their duties and congratulated the Mr. Frost and Ms. Morgan on being elected as officers of the Commission.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lou thanked the members for their service and asked the Commission to incorporate the Public's concerns as they fulfill their duties to ensure that a fair and equitable process takes place for future voting needs.

Ms. Susan Murnane, League of Women Voters, asked if it would be possible to access the preliminary numbers before the Census is released.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Ms. Murphy thank everyone for accommodating her on Zoom; stated that she looks forward to meeting the members in person and working with them.

Mr. Frost thank Ms. Murphy for participating in the meeting via Zoom on such short notice.

Mr. McAleer introduced Joseph Nanni, Council Chief of Staff

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Clerk Richardson adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m., without objection.