



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.
Larry W. Ward
Charles J. Marquardt
Victoria A. Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tanya L. Ford-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of June 2, 2021

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on June 2, 2021 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Present
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Present
Commissioner Ethridge King	Present
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Present

Also, present were Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump, Assistant Director Lesley Waxman, Jeff Amero (GIS Dept.) and Sean Sweeney (GIS Dept.).

I. GIS PRESENTATION ON 2021 REDISTRICTING

The Chair welcomed Jeff Amero and Sean Sweeney to the meeting.

Jeff and Sean introduced themselves and provided their experience with the redistricting process. Jeff has been with the GIS Dept. for over 20 years and lead the 2011 redistricting process. Sean was also here for and involved in the 2011 redistricting.

Jeff led a presentation of the process of redistricting and reprecincting including parameters under which the process is done.

The largest issue for the 2021 process is the compressed timeline under which the work will be performed. Census data will not be available until September 30th while the reprecincting process needs be completed and submitted to the state by October 30th.

GIS is preparing for this challenge by using 2015-2019 ACS data as a proxy for the Census data to start preparing maps. While not as detailed as the Census data the ACS data enables GIS to start work now and identify potential areas of focus.

The Commissioners and staff thanked GIS for their presentation and expressed their gratitude for having them running the process.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

John Hawkinson posed a question as to why Cambridge would use a lower threshold for variances between precincts than allowed by state regulations.

Commissioner King stated that this helped make the precincts more equal.

Commissioners and staff discussed that the percentage variance might need to be higher this cycle to prepare for known future development in precincts so that they do not become imbalanced with growth between this reprecincting and the next one in 2031.

Mr. Hawkinson urged the Commissioners not to use a lower variance threshold than required.

Motion: To close Public Comment.
Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea
Commissioner Harris Yea
Commissioner King Yea
Commissioner Marquardt Yea
Passed: 4—0

III: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of May 19th, 2021 with corrections.
Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea
Commissioner Harris Yea
Commissioner King Yea
Commissioner Marquardt Yea
Passed: 4—0

IV: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

There was no ED report as Ms. Ford-Crump was on PTO and attended for the GIS presentation.

2. Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Waxman made the following report:

- a. Statement of Financial Interests
Statement of Financial Interests have been received from 97 out of 154 respondents to date. Notices of Failure to File will be the week of June 7th to any remaining delinquent filers.
- b. Candidate Packets 2021
Ms. Waxman discussed the information to be included in the packets provided to Municipal Candidates for the 2021 Municipal Election including the cover letter, office schedule, schedule of campaign finance seminars which will be provided on-line by OCPF and the updated absentee ballot procedures.

The updated absentee ballot procedures highlight that, as of now and absent state legislation, that the absentee ballot procedures revert to their pre-COVID norms.

There was also discussion regarding reminding the candidates to fill out their nomination papers properly as this was an issue in the prior Municipal Election. Ms. Waxman stated that this will be done when packets are picked up in the office.

As the packets will need to be prepared prior to the Commission's next meeting the following motion was made:

Motion: To accept the Candidate Packet information and delegate any final edits to the Executive Director and Assistant Director.

Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea
Commissioner Harris Yea
Commissioner King Yea
Commissioner Marquardt Yea
Passed: 4—0

3. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Harris reported that:

- Trinity Church is all set as a polling location
- She will be making a site visit to the renovated Burns Apartments on June 3rd
- The Boston Cambridge Election Science Group met May 20th and discussed the use of cell phone tracking data to gather information on voter experience.
- She will be out of town June 18th to June 21st

Commissioner Marquardt reported that:

- He had visited the Attles Room at the High School and that it would be tight for a double precinct.
- He had communicated with the Project Manager for City Hall and that City Hall will be able to host a polling location.
- He had completed his Ethics Training

Commissioner King reported that:

- He had not heard back from Gund Hall as a polling location yet.
- He will be out of town from July 11th to July 20th.

Commissioner Ward reported that:

- He had was in conversation with the Cambridge Multi Cultural Arts Center on Second St as a potential polling location.
- He will be out of town from June 8th to June 22nd.

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Coordination/Communication with City Council Regarding Proposed Legislative Changes for the 2021 Municipal Election

Commissioner Marquardt reported that there are frequent revisions to proposals in the Legislature including stand-alone bills and proposed amendments to the budget impacting Election Laws.

Polling Locations

Ms. Waxman stated that the Security Plans for each School location are being completed by the Police Department and will be provided to the School Department but will not be reviewed publicly in light of their nature as a security document.

There was additional discussion regarding potential sites for polling locations should some School locations not

be available. The School Committee's Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee will be meeting on this soon and Commissioners King and Ward will attend.

New Business

There was no new business.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for June 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

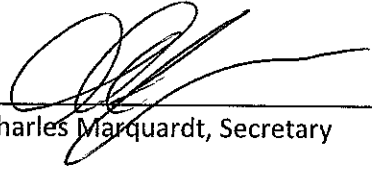
Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

A True Record

Attested by: _____


Charles Marquardt, Secretary