

CITY OF STAMFORD

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Members

MICHAEL CACACE, Co-Chair

CHRISTINA FEENY

MICHAEL POLLARD

ROBIN STEIN

Members

CRISTINA ANDREANA, Co-Chair

JONATHAN HOCH

BILL McMANUS

GARY PALOMBA

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Redistricting Commission met on

Friday, November 19, 2021
8:00 a.m.

The meeting was held remotely on Zoom.com

Michael Cacace called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Present were Commission Members: Cristina Andreana, Michael Cacace; Christina Feeny, Jonathan Hoch, Bill McManus, Michael Pollard, and Robin Stein. Gary Palomba was absent. Also present were Cindy Barber, GIS; and Steve Carr, TSI

1. Approval of the 11/3/21 Draft Minutes -

A motion to approve the 11/03/21 draft minutes was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Redistricting Procedure/Efforts/Discussion

Mr. Cacace stated that the Board office had sent the co-chairs a list of consultants provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures, and they had asked her to reach out to 3 who were geographically close to Connecticut. One had responded that he only provided software, and so the office reached out to one additional consultant. To date, no other consultants have responded. To date, the Office has only received the original proposal from TSI

Ms. Barber explained that there are multiple software products available. Last time, the City used a free product from ESRI. ESRI also has a product to be purchased which costs \$4500. Whichever consultant the Commission ends up with will determine the software to use used. Ms. Barber stated that her current workload would make it difficult for her to act as the consultant for the Commission. 20 years ago, she provided backup to the Commission and believes that this role would be optimal for her. The GIS Department would still be involved in the back-end, particularly implementation. Given the dramatic change in the population in some of the districts in the latest census, there will be substantial work in some of the districts.

The Commission discussed whether or not they wanted to hold a public hearing. The Board committee, which is not yet formed, is required to hold a public hearing. Commission members discussed providing the public with other ways to give input, which might be more valuable, including on the City website. Mr. Pollard directed members to the City of Stockton website,

which allows citizens to draw districts to be submitted. In the past, the Commission has come up with a preliminary recommendation and then gets input from the Board Committee prior to finalizing the report. It might be more helpful to have the Commission members present at the public hearing held by the Board of Representatives. The Commission needs to share the basis for its decision with the public.

It will probably be February before the Commission comes up with a preliminary proposal, which can then be shared online.

The Commission will select a consultant by December 3rd. The Board office will reach out again to the consultants who have not responded.

Ms. Barber demonstrated the type of map the software can produce and how it can be used to change the map.

3. Discussion with Steve Carr, TSI Mapping

Mr. Carr joined the meeting at 8:30. He described the work he had done with Stamford on reapportionment in 1990 and 2000. He would need to meet with the Commission remotely, since he is currently working on a project in Brooklyn, but believes he would be able to share maps on a screen. He uses Mapinfo software, which is compatible with GIS information he has gotten from Cindy in the past. He described support he had provided to the City of Bridgeport in conjunction with a lawsuit regarding redistricting. He will meet with Cindy further to fine tune his proposal. Mr. Carr then left the meeting.

4. Date by which Commission will complete its work

Commission members discussed that they only have 6 months to complete their work. The Board of Representatives then acts on the report. A motion to have a final report issued no later than April 29, 2021 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. Next Meeting Date/Time

The next meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, December 3, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cristina Andreana, Co-Chair
Michael Cacace, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).