

WEPC Community Meeting
February 12, 2016 – Community Center
Notes – Jean Speidel

CAFÉ invited WEPC and OneAmerica to each make Power Point presentations of their work regarding City Council voting districts. The WEPC presentation shows the pros and cons of each of three options (7 at-large, 7 districts, 5 districts/2 at-large) without taking a position. OneAmerica promotes the 7 district option.

Attendees

Public:

Ruth Esparza – City Council

Jorge Chacon

Norma Gallegos

Karen Keleman

Leonarda Maldonado

Cintia Murillo – WHS student

Tom Nees

Tomas Sandoval

Scott Tiedeman – WHS teacher

Sara Urdahl

[*Cintia's Anglo friend*] – WHS student

Teresita _____

Wilma _____

10 other people (maybe more?)

Committee:

Oralia Banelos, Gustavo Montoya, Jean Speidel, Mark Urdahl, Rufus Woods

Staff:

Tammy Stanger, Allison Williams

OneAmerica:

Toby Guevin

Mary Lopez

Comments (recorded by Jean Speidel and Gustavo Montoya):

Toby Guevin – A combo system simply means that the 5 district positions are fair and the 2 at-large positions are unfair.

Cintia Murillo – People don't vote because they don't think they are represented.

-- What are you going to do to encourage them to vote? Suggestions: engagement via food and music; make presentation to college ESL and GED students at WVC; young adults like Cynthia and Teresita should be identified by current leaders to help them and mentor them into what is a passion for them; accountability for those who are involved (who are we voting for?).

Ruth Esparza – Candidates should reach out, but the public need to engage with the city (for example, a group like United Neighbors Association (UNA)) – it's a two way "street".

[*I'm not sure who made these comments*] – re: 5/2 option: are the 2 at-large seats not as engaged? Trends to more engagement because candidates come from the community. Are there Latinos who are prepared to run? This discussion is about the power to elect who we think is the best.

Perhaps other committee members have more to add.

Attached is the OneAmerica presentation.