

MEETING OF WENATCHEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RE: ELECTORAL PROCESS

March 28, 2016

WENATCHEE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

129 S. Chelan Avenue Wenatchee, WA 98801

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER 5:30 pm

Chair Jean Speidel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Committee members present: Susan Albert, Oralia Banuelos, Mario Canto (arrived late), Carolyn Case, Alma Chacon, Joe Morrison, Mark Urdahl, Rufus Woods. Absent: Gustavo Montoya, Karen Rutherford. City staff present: Executive Services Director Allison Williams, City Clerk Tammy Stanger, Community & Economic Development Director Steve King, City Attorney Steve Smith.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 14, 2016, MEETING

Motion to approve the March 14, 2016, meeting minutes by Mark Urdahl; Rufus Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

IV. VOTING BY DISTRICT

City Attorney Steve Smith provided information to the committee in response to legal questions arising from the current Pasco situation. The Franklin County Auditor informed the Pasco City Council in 2015 that Pasco could not vote by district in the general election because that would violate state law. A recent State Attorney General opinion on the issue stated that the city would need to show strong evidence that the city is violating federal law in order to vote by districts in the general election. Mr. Smith confirmed that if the WEPC recommended either all districts or a combination of districts and at large positions it would conform to state law as long as Wenatchee voted by districts in the primary and citywide in the general elections.

[Mario Cantu joined the meeting.]

V. FORENSIC DATA ANALYSIS EXPERT BILL COOPER

Expert Bill Cooper then presented an overview of the updated population data and the possible 5 and 7 district scenarios. In drawing the districts he was attentive to neighborhood boundaries and precinct lines. He also tried to put current council members in separate districts. A Latino CVAP (citizen voting age population) district is possible now in his 7-district plan, and he believes it could be possible in the 5-district plan after the 2020 census. If future annexations occur, district boundaries would likely need to be updated. They would also probably be revised in 2021, after the 2020 census results are received.

The committee asked questions. After further discussion, it was the direction of the committee for Mr. Cooper to create 5 and 7 district maps using current city boundaries without taking into consideration where the current councilmembers reside; and to create two maps that include possible annexation areas, also without regard to current councilmember residences.

Motion made by Joe Morrison to have two additional maps created that do not take into consideration where current councilmembers reside, and two maps that include possible "island" annexations; motion seconded by Mario Cantu. Motion carried (8-0).

VI. RESEARCH

- History of contested elections in comparable WA cities: Bremerton, Camas, Mount Vernon, Pullman
- Why Bonney Lake and Snohomish abandoned Wards
- Overlay of 5 and 7 districts on 2010 census map

The committee was provided the information for this agenda item at the last meeting and they had no questions at this time.

VII. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Report on Mariachi Festival outreach
Alma Chacon attended the Mariachi Festival and asked people to take a survey created by Rufus Woods. She had 16 responses and provided everyone with a copy. The committee would like Alma to continue gathering responses to the survey.
- Status of Wenatchee Valley College meeting
Since the student union has not had success in generating high attendance at events, at this time there is no meeting scheduled. However, the YWCA and WVC are working together on a YWCA "Stand Against Racism" event April 28. We will check to see if that would be an appropriate venue for our committee to interact with students.
- Other meetings scheduled.
Jean Speidel announced the following meetings and encouraged all committee members to attend: Interagency Council on April 12, United Neighborhood Association (UNA) on April 13, Downtown Rotary on April 21.
- Additional meetings/community input?
None at this time.
- Additional meetings after committee decides upon recommendation?
The committee will discuss this once a decision is reached.

VIII. NEXT STEPS

- Assignments

For the next meeting Chair Jean Speidel would like everyone to prepare to share their ideas and options, and rationale, with pros and cons.

A member of the audience who arrived late was asked if he had any comments. Mr. Manuel Santos spoke and said he felt this was a good thing but people need to be educated on the issues as they don't understand.

- Next meetings - Committee: April 11, 2016
Interagency Council: April 12, 2016, 10 a.m., WSD
United Neighborhood Association: April 13, 2016, 6 p.m., El Abuelo
Downtown Rotary: April 21, 2016, noon, Red Lion

IX. ADJOURNMENT With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM