

Albany County Redistricting Commission [November 22nd, 2021]

Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	Other	MMD Commissioners
Joan Ramsey		Dominic Mazza
Warren E. Hamilton		Adrienne Kisse
Larry Volk		Marie Allen Campbell
Patricia Sibia		Larry Mauldin
Thomas Clingan		Keshana Owens Cody
Sita Subbaram		Constance Graves
Leif Hartmark		
Julia Reeb	Patrick Collins	
Mark McCumber	Caitlin O' Brien	

Discussion Items

Interns

- Patrick Collins has reached out to H.R and they will publish the opportunity at Rockefeller College. Question raised about dollar amount per hour to be paid. The norm used to be 13 dollars an hour and it has been brought up to 15 dollars an hour. Requirements of the intern position including hours per week and salary to be communication to the college.
- Issue raised about possibly increasing the pay from 15 after 90 days or so. Using incremental increases in salary could be used as an incentive, however the time frame may be too short to utilize this. Suggestion raised to pay interns who will most likely be graduate students 20 dollars an hour.
- Number of hours interns should be available should also be spelled out in the application. There may be variability on the number of hours per week the interns will be needed, so specifying hours in the application may not be required. 10 hours per week for students may be a little high, however a minimum number of hours per week should be specified. Two hours per week to start at a

minimum and the number could increase quickly when the commission gets to the public hearing phase. Minimum of 5 hours a week may be a better an option to have enough applicants apply and the number of hours could increase based on the commission's needs.

- Final vote carried out on minimum 5 hours per week at 20 dollars and hour possibly increasing to a maximum of 10 hours a week
- Question raised as to what the intern's duties would be: Possibly transcribing minutes of meetings, help with public hearings, website help in conjunction with Albany County IT department therefore not requiring someone with extensive IT experience, compiling public opinion on the redistricting process
- We also should keep in mind that the MMD subcommittee will also require interns. MMD has started the process of reviewing applications for interns.
- Question raised as to when ACRC will be able to get interns. (Open item)

Mapping RFP

- RFP publication and response dates pushed back by one week due to Thanksgiving holiday conflict. Publication date would be December 2nd, 2021, and response date would be December 22nd 2021 unless a request is made for an extension.

Counsel RFP

- Evaluation tool for counsel RFP was very helpful especially the matrix and descriptions of the ratings. Discussion on the rate for counsel services for redistricting commission and processes (question open)
- Pre- screening of RFP submissions by Purchasing department are for patently deficient applications (missing items or any questions raised by the applicant). Very unlikely that the Department of Law will find anything as to reject an application.

Website Content

- Commissioners required to fill out their Bio sketch for the website.
- Draft of the website was discussed extensively including the organization of the Albany County website to include ACRC.
- The overall design of the website for ACRC was discussed including the local law and to make it user friendly.
- An email address needs to be established that goes to all members not individually.
- MMD subcommittee set up on the website is an open item to be determined by the MMD itself.

ACRC meeting recordings (website access)

- Ideas raised to wait for counsel to decide on the question of accessibility. They are public documents and subject to FOIL.

ACRC meetings

- Question raised as to whether it should be on the county calendar. (Question open for counsel)
- The meeting may not have website access for the public to attend live as well just to streamline the process. Public can stream the meetings but maybe not attend the meeting themselves. This may be an option like the county legislature meetings.
- Meeting minutes and recordings may be available after.
- Comments on the meetings could be submitted by the public to the common ACRC mailbox.
- Issue of full transparency brought up and needs to be defined by the next meeting.
- Providing document on the MMD to the full commission.
- Agenda item for next meeting: background education such as statistics on county demographics, New York state home rule laws, voting right acts before starting the whole process.

Notes prepared by Sita Subbaram from the November 22nd 2021 zoom recording.