

Albany County Redistricting Commission – Notes from meeting held 12/6/2021 at 4 PM via Zoom

Attending: Commission members Joan Ramsey, Mark McCumber, Sita Subbaram, Thomas Clingan, Julia Reeb, Larry Volk (Chair), Leif Hartmark, Patricia Sibilia and Warren Hamilton; MMD subcommittee members Marie Allen Campbell and Constance Graves; and Patrick Collins from the Legislature Clerk's office. Mr. Collins recorded the meeting for the Commission.

(Note: no attendance was taken, and attendees faces only appeared on screen if they spoke.)

Chairman Larry Volk opened the meeting and asked Patricia to report on interns. 4 resumes have been submitted; Patricia checked on their availability during our anticipated time frame but has not yet scheduled interviews. Interns will need to meet the requirements outlined in Local Law 8 sections J and F. Residency in Albany County will not be required if the intern is a full-time student at a college or university within the county. Patricia, Julia and Tom will conduct the interviews and report the results back with their recommendations.

The Commission discussed what steps to take next in securing counsel to the Commission, now that the formal Counsel Request for Proposals ("RFP") yielded no responses. Patrick indicated that he received an unsolicited offer from Professor Jeffrey Wice of New York Law School after the deadline for the RFP had passed, and that Professor Wice indicated that his program at the law school is affiliated with the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz, which does mapping for redistricting projects. Since our formal Mapping RFP is still out for proposals, we need to wait on discussing mapping services until after that process is complete. Sita, Joan and Julia will be evaluating the mapping proposals.

The lack of responses to the counsel RFP under the county's Procurement Policy means that ACRC is free to try to find counsel on its own. There was extended discussion of the relationship between NY Law School and the New Paltz mapping program, and even more discussion on how to try again to look for counsel. Tom asked if NY Law School is interested in a "standalone" proposal for counsel. Joan suggested coming up with a method to select a counsel that takes two weeks instead of a month. After the counsel RFP failed, Patrick heard from attorneys who suggested the names of other attorneys who might be interested. There was extended discussion of how to find counsel in an expeditious manner. Tom suggested re-working the language of the RFP and putting the result out as a new solicitation on December 13, returnable December 27. After further discussion, Patricia moved (and Joan seconded) to do that, with Purchasing to receive the proposals. Patrick offered to have the Clerk of the Legislature's office receive responses if for any reason Purchasing cannot do so; Patricia and Joan accepted this friendly amendment. Discussion followed about whether two weeks was long enough, and the possibility of a flexible deadline, but consensus was to keep the December 27 deadline. The motion was unanimously approved. There was further discussion of how to seek publicity for the upcoming counsel solicitation, with Tom volunteering to work on this.

Patricia reported that she is awaiting a response from the county's webmaster about our Commission website as well as creating one joint email address that would automatically go to all Commission members. Patrick will follow up with Information Services about this, and with Purchasing about their role in a re-issued counsel solicitation.

Marie Allen Campbell reported that the MMD has appointed Larry Mauldin and Constance Graves to the MMD, and sked for a copy of the mapping RFP to be emailed to her (Patrick will do this.)

Several members had to leave the meeting, and the Chair ended the meeting at 59 minutes 37 seconds.

(This draft transcribed from the 12/6/2021 meeting video on 2/2/2022 by Tom Clingan.)