

Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	ACRC Interns	MMD Commissioners
Larry Volk	Nicholas Glass	Adrienne Smith Kissee
Tom Clingan		
Leif Hartmark		
Mark McCumber		
Joan Ramsey		
Julia Reeb		
Sita Subbaram		
Patricia Sibia	Guest: Professor Jeffrey Wice	

Discussion Items

Chair Larry Volk called the meeting to order, and called the roll (above.) A quorum was achieved, with all except Warren Hamilton present. The draft minutes for the meetings of February 7, 14, 17 and 21 of 2022 were presented; Tom moved their approval and Leif seconded, and all were in favor.

The upcoming March 8 public hearing was discussed (33 minutes.) There is currently one person signed up to speak and one other person submitting a written statement. Both may have maps to submit as well. Professor Wice has agreed to make a presentation on the legal aspects of redistricting lasting approximately 30 minutes, and Larry expects Priya and Ashley from mapping contractor AppGeo to then review the current map of Albany County Legislative districts (annotated with 2020 population changes) and also do a presentation on the mapping software and how the public can use this to propose its own maps.

Patricia reviewed the draft schedule (or “script”) for the hearing and shared it on screen. YouTube will be used to both live-stream the hearing and to create a permanent video record of it. There will also be a stenographer attending who will make a formal transcription. The Commission reviewed the procedures for each member to join the hearing at 3:45pm (15 minutes before the hearing starts) and to be aware of “who does what and when.” There are contingency plans noted if anything unexpected happens. The required legal notices for the hearing have been properly placed in both of the County’s official newspapers, and display advertisements have been published in both the Times Union and three local weekly newspapers. Flyers about the hearing were created and posted at Stewart’s Shops in the County. The League of Women Voters distributed information about it to its email list and on social media. Professor Wice will advise Common Cause and the Urban League of the hearing. Security measures were reviewed, and a “listen-only” option has been set up utilizing TurboBridge. The complete script for the hearing was reviewed.

Leif presented a report from Budget Committee (14 minutes.) He shared the draft budget on-screen for review and comment. We are thus far well within the \$400,000 appropriation made by the County Legislature. Transcription costs for the hearings is unknown, and will depend on the number of hearings and their length. Public Relations plans are still under discussion, so this cost is not certain. Leif reviewed each item in the budget spreadsheet with the Commission. Tom moved and Joan seconded a motion to approve the proposed budget. Larry called for a vote, and the motion passed with no negative votes or abstentions.

Patricia reported on progress with our website (8 minutes.) We continue to work with County Information Services on improvements to our website. Contact information submitted by the public will be replaced with a first name and first initial of the last name on any submissions; Professor Wice indicated that this was the policy adopted by the statewide redistricting commission as well. We need to clarify with AppGeo concerning the format of public submission of maps; it was concluded that it is important that we accept and store any such submissions in any form, regardless of the format.

With no further business, a motion by Joan to adjourn was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 0:58:25. The Commission's next meeting will be tomorrow (Monday) at 4 pm.

ACTION ITEMS: Approval of the Minutes of February 7, 14, 17, and 21 2022 at 0:01:30.

Adoption of the ACRC and MMD Redistricting subcommittee budget at 0:48:00.

[Meeting notes prepared by Tom Clingan]