

Albany County Redistricting Commission [Minutes: July 05, 2022]

Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	Interns	MMD
Joan Ramsey	Nick Glass (ACRC)	Marie Allen Campbell
Warren E. Hamilton	Nassim Ramdani (MMD)	Constance Graves
Larry Volk		Dona Bulluck
Patricia Sibia		Dominic Mazza
Thomas Clingan	Guests:	Adrienne Kisse
Sita Subbaram	Jeffrey Wice	Larry Mauldin
Leif Hartmark	Priya Sankalia	
Julia Reeb	Ashley Tardif	Guests:
Mark McCumber	Marissa Zanfardino	Priti Mathur
	Lisa Handley	Sam Mathur

NOTE: THIS MEETING INCLUDED EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION THAT CANNOT BE FULLY CAPTURED IN THIS SUMMARY. INTERESTED PARTIES MAY WANT TO VIEW THE FULL VIDEO RECORDING FOUND at the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5w4MMxfZvuQ&ab_channel=AlbanyCountyRedistrictingCommission]

Chairman Volk convened the meeting at 4:01 PM and called the roll (see above). The minutes from June 27th were approved (with 1 abstention.)

The commission began by discussing the hearing that was held on June 30th, beginning with legal counsel addressing more than a dozen concerns of a commission member that arose from testimony at the hearing. Mainly, discussion focused on whether any of the allegations made would be viable legal challenges to actions the commission has taken in creating its map draft. [NOTE: These minutes do not include all the details of Counsel's response to each issue raised; please view the video recording (above) to hear this lengthy discussion.]

After these concerns were addressed another commission member stated that she believed that some of the public comments that were received at the hearing might merit an official response from the commission to avoid the continuation of such misunderstandings. There was extended discussion of which priorities in federal and state law (and Local Law 8) take precedence over others. It was noted that these laws rank "keeping communities together" well below other considerations but public testimony received at hearings often ranks that above everything else. Discussion followed about exactly how to respond to testimony that is inaccurate while the hearing is going on; Counsel advised that attempting a "dialogue" at hearings is problematic.

A member of the MMD then commented that nobody in either group wants to see this redistricting end up in court, but reiterated that there is no one perfect answer - so we just need to

strive for our best solution. We need to put the best product we can into the Legislature's hands. This sentiment was shared by other members from both the ACRC and MMD. A commission member then asked the MMD if they were planning on moving an MMD into Menands, and the MMD subcommittee members stated they were still unsure.

The commission then discussed the state of the mapping workshop that was tentatively scheduled for July 7th. This then led to some comments about specific sections of the map that were criticized by members of the public during the hearing. It was decided to proceed with the workshop on July 7th to address mapping and draft final report concerns. It was also decided that after the meeting on the 7th we will determine whether we need to hold another session on July 10th.

The next regular ACRC meeting will be on Monday July 11th at 4 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Nick Glass, and reviewed by Tom Clingan.