

MMD Redistricting Committee Agenda

Saturday, February 19, 2022, 2022

9:00 A.M.- 10:30 A.M.

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/6910365412?pwd=Rm4rc1FDdbDIJK0tXZ2xGZEdrUXZkUT09>

Meeting ID: 691 036 5412

Passcode: Hg7Ubj

- I. Welcome
 - a. Interns
 - i. Justine McCarthy
 - ii. Nassim Ramdani

- II. Action Items
 - a. Legal and Mapping Contracts approved (Marie/Keshana)
 - b. Code of Ethics (Marie)
 - i. Discussion: Marie presented a draft of the Code of Ethics for Commissioners to adhere to going forward. Feedback was provided.
 - ii. Action: All Commissioners are to review and provide feedback by Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022.
 - c. Talking Points (Keshana)
 - i. Discussion: Keshana presented a draft of talking points to create consistency in our upcoming conversations engaging community-based organizations and community members into public hearings, etc.
 - ii. Action: All Commissioners are to review and provide feedback by Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022.
 - d. Open Meeting Law (Larry)
 - i. Give the public a week's notice
 - ii. Provide documents to be reviewed up front
 - iii. Public Meetings and Minutes are required to be public information
 - iv. Under the Freedom of Information Act they are able to obtain this information and we can't deny them.
 - v. Larry will continue to look into the law
 - vi. If video is taken, the video has to be published.
 - vii. Transparency was spoken about
 - viii. Executive meetings- not for public review, and not entitled to or make public decisions.
 - ix. Action Item: Create a checklist to follow for each meeting.

III. New Business

a. Discussion: Meeting w/ Albany County Judge (Marie)

- i. Larry attended a meeting with Joan Ramsey, Merton Simpson (Legislator) and an Albany County Judge regarding Redistricting. Merton is concerned that the county has not done a good job on either of the Commissions in giving us any direction or guidance. His concern is, without the direction and guidance we may make some mistakes that open us up to a legal lawsuit again.
- ii. Thomas Marcille- was one of the lawyers that won the case for the commission. He felt that we needed to hear the pitfalls that allowed them to win the case. Some of the things the county did not do.
- iii. Districts have to be equal in population. One district can't have 7,000 people and another has 2,000 people.
- iv. Percentages were also discussed. 45% is not enough to declare a district as MMD. Should be at least 51%.
- v. He also discussed the intent of the law and why it was drafted. The intent was that the MMD would be driving Redistricting. We would start with our districts, and then the other districts. Merton was concerned that we are being treated as a subcommittee and not the lead committee. That was never the intent. MMD was intended to be the Lead Committee. Our maps should be drawn first. He offered to meet with the subcommittee.
- vi. Action: We need to define minority – only AA, or minorities AA, Hispanic, etc.

b. Website Posted (All)

- i. Overview of the MMD Subcommittee Page Is Up
- ii. Bios are up
- iii. Website is still underdeveloped
- iv. Needs to accommodate receiving comments from the public.
- v. Marie met with IT to discuss the functionality going forward.
- vi. We need a link to the current Albany County map and the ability to highlight the majority minority district maps.
- vii. We need someone who has expertise on mapping to call them out.
- viii. Email has been set up mmdredistricting@albanycountyny.gov

c. Legal Training with Professor Wice March 1st at 7 p.m.

- i. Dr. Wice as part of the contract is to provide a legal workshop to the Commission. This workshop will be held on March 1st 7 p.m.
- ii. Action: All present will attend

d. Public Hearing March 8th, 2022

- i. Discussion: MMD role in the initial Public Hearing was discussed. Marie and Dominic agreed to bring this forward in the upcoming meeting to understand if we are expected to present, etc.
- ii. All Commissioners will attend on March 8, 2022 between 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

IV. Budget Updates- Larry

- i. Budget request was sent over to Majority Committee
- ii. MMD has not been invited to a budget meeting with the Majority Committee.

- V. Operations Updates
 - a. Plan implementation from legal office has been submitted
 - b. Action: Dominic needs the ARCBridge workplan
 - c. Discussion: Commissioners discussed timelines, as well as election, these activities would support immediately and into the future. Dominic will work with the interns to create a workplan that encompasses the infrastructure surrounding public hearings, vendor management, and finance.

- VI. Community Engagement
 - a. List of organizations (Adrienne)
 - i. Adrienne presented and shared (email) the list of community organizations.
 - b. List of Libraries (Connie)
 - i. Connie completed and shared the list of Libraries with Adrienne who shared (email) list of libraries with commissioners.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.