



**Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)  
Town Lake Center, Assembly Room  
721 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX  
Wednesday, July 17, 2013  
Minutes**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Catherine Cocco	Mariano Diaz-Miranda	Magdalena Blanco
Rachel Farris	Stefan Haag	Anna Saenz
Carmen Llanes Pulido	William Hewitt	TJ Costello
María Solís	Henry Johnson	Arthur Lopez
Ryan Rafols	Harriett Harrow	

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Interim Chair Magdalena Blanco. A quorum was present.**

**City Liaison Jawana Gutierrez announced that in New York City Catherine Cocco had been successfully sworn in as the fourteenth and final Commissioner.**

**1. GENERAL CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Guadalupe Sosa, Fred Lewis

The commission may discuss and take action on any of the following items:

**2. Review/Approve minutes of July 10, 2013 regular meeting.**

**Member Costello motioned to approve the minutes from the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with the correction of adding the request of legal opinion from the City's department included in the minutes, and to also have all meeting minutes listed with the names of the speakers who spoke on each agenda item. Member Hewitt seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0.**

**3. Mapping Software demonstrations (each speaker is limited to 5 minutes).**

**Citizen Communication for this item: Peck Young**

**One speaker was present for this agenda. Ms. Clare Dyer, Manager from the Mapping and Redistricting section of the Texas Legislative Council discussed the mapping software her agency uses, and also provided the commission with some maps she created from the data collected in the 2012 elections. The commission members also received from Liaison Gutierrez two other mapping vendor brochures for their review and discussion.**

**4. Report from City Staff regarding the ICRC budget**

**Citizen Communication for this item: Fred Lewis**

**Lauren Brumley, ICRC's Budget Liaison, and Financial Manager from the City's Financial Office, spoke to the commission with a quick overview on the procedural requirements that must be followed in terms of the \$140,000 budget the commission is allocated to spend.**

5. Report from Public Information Officer regarding the City's public information responsibilities and outreach options

**Citizen Communication for this item: Fred Lewis**

**Doug Matthews, Chief Communications Officer from the City's Public Information Office was present to discuss an overview of what their office can do for the commission in terms of outreach options. Mr. Matthews also answered general questions from the commission.**

6. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair (a) defining of terms of office (b) election of Chair and Vice Chair

**Citizen Communication for this item: No Citizen Communication**

**Member Solis motioned for the commission to go ahead and select a Chair and Vice Chair for the duration of the commission. Member Diaz-Miranda seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0. Several commission members made their verbal nominations for selection of a Chair to include William Hewitt, TJ Costello, Maria Solis, and Magdalena Blanco. (William Hewitt pulled his name for consideration) Member Solis motioned the vote be done by ballot. Member Llanes Pulido seconded the motion. Member Rafols amended the motion to have the highest number of votes from the ballot be selected as Chair, and the second highest votes be selected as Vice Chair. Member Blanco seconded the motion. Motion was passed on a vote of 13-1. The three candidates in the ballot to be voted on are: Magdalena Blanco, TJ Costello, and Maria Solis. After a tally of votes from Liaison Gutierrez, it was determined that Magdalena Blanco will be Chair and TJ Costello as Vice-Chair for the duration of the commission. (The votes tallied were 7 votes for Magdalena Blanco, 4 votes for TJ Costello, and 2 votes for Maria Solis)**

7. Setting up a meeting with the City Auditor, City Legal, and City Manager

**Citizen Communication for this item: Steve Bickerstaff, Fred Lewis, Steven Aleman**

**After Fred Lewis mentioned to the commission that section 3-D of the Charter states it takes 9 affirmative votes for any official action, member Costello motioned to elect Magdalena Blanco as Chair and TJ Costello as Vice-Chair. Member Diaz-Miranda seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0. Vice Chair Costello suggested to the Commission to consider waiting and having a further discussion on this particular agenda item until their council person is present.**

8. Report from Commissioner Rafols regarding the use of a public forum website

**Citizen Communication for this item: Shaun Ireland, Steve Bickerstaff**

**Member Rafols wanted to discuss this item once he receives a report from the City's Public Information Officer, Patricia Fraga, in reference to the process of the commission using public forum websites. Chair Blanco suggested this item be tabled for a future agenda item until further research is done, and to possibly have Patricia Fraga come and do a demonstration to show the commission how the new 10-1 website would look.**

9. Report from Subcommittee regarding possible locations for public hearings

**Citizen Communication for this item: Peck Young, Steve Aleman**

**Subcommittee Chair Solis provided a report to the commission on possible locations for public hearings and stated she has compiled a list of locations to include the ACC campuses where public hearings can be held; Solis said five more places were added where the meetings can be held. The Commission brainstormed and provided their thoughts and suggestions on this agenda item. Vice Chair Costello motioned to have their first public hearing at a location to be determined by the scheduling committee on Wednesday August 14th. Chair Blanco seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 12-1. (1 member abstained from voting) Chair Blanco motioned for the subcommittee to**

go back and create two plans: one plan to have one day a week public meetings, and another plan with two meetings per week, with one meeting being on a Saturday, and to alternate the Saturdays. Member Lopez seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 12-1. (1 abstained) Chair Blanco requested of the subcommittee to check for holidays when scheduling dates for the public meetings. Member Solis motioned to schedule the next 3 Wednesday meetings (7/24, 7/31, 8/7). Chair Blanco seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0. Liaison Gutierrez will find a central downtown location for the next 3 meetings. Liaison Gutierrez passed out to the commission a preliminary schedule with the information she has received from some of the commission members on who will be available and who will not be available for the future meetings. Liaison Gutierrez mentioned that as of now, the schedule shows there will be a quorum for each meeting.

10. Report from Subcommittee regarding search for Executive Director

**Citizen Communication for this item: Brad Parsons**

Upon discussion of the verbiage in the Executive Director Job description, the Commission determined that a couple of changes/additions will need to be made. Member Farris motioned that member Harrow make three primary amendments to the Executive Director Job description which will be posted online on Job Score.com: (1) move the bullet points at the end to the section before the bolded paragraph, (2) put the word “not” between “has’ and “been” in the second paragraph on the second page, (3) add a sentence or clause to the paragraph regarding transparency indicating they may or can or will be expected to work with City staff. Vice Chair Costello seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0. The Commission discussed logistics with regards to the posting, receiving and reviewing of the Executive Director position.

11. Future Agenda items

**Citizen Communication for this item: No Communication**

Chair Blanco requested the next meeting will consist of a review and discussion on hiring general counsel, Subcommittee Report in regards to location and dates for public hearings, report from member Rafols on public web forums, discussion of roles, discussion/review of the California redistricting commission, housekeeping matters (website issues, emails, etc)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Blanco adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm without objection.