



**Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)  
Austin City Hall, Board and Commissions Room 1101,  
301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, TX  
Wednesday, July 24, 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 Chair Magdalena Blanco. A quorum was present.**

**Mr. Ray Baray, Chief of Staff from the Citizen Manager's Office, was sitting in on behalf of Liaison Jawana Gutierrez who was not available at today's meeting.**

**1. GENERAL CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: Members of the public present and signed up to speak included:**

**Ted Siff: resides in the downtown Austin area (did not state affiliation)**

**Peck Young: resides in SW Austin (did not state affiliation)**

**Charlie DeWeese: resides in the Balcones-Spicewood area (here on behalf of the Austin Neighborhood Council)**

**James Peterson: resides in far NW Area (did not state affiliation)**

**James Schissler: resides in the Circle C neighborhood (here on behalf of the Oak Hill Neighborhood Association)**

**Frances McIntyre: resides in Allandale area (here on behalf of the Austin League of Women Voters)**

**Guadalupe Sosa: resides in South Austin (here on behalf of herself)**

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

2. Review/Approve minutes of July 17, 2013 regular meeting.

**Member Harrow motioned to approve the July 17<sup>th</sup> minutes with the following changes: including the announcement from City Liaison Jawana Gutierrez that in New York City Catherine Cocco had been successfully sworn in as the fourteenth and final commissioner, correction of the spelling of the word “ballot” in three places, and including the mention of posting online on jobscore.com under the motion that was made under agenda item 10. Member Farris seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0.**

3. Deliberation and possible action regarding hiring of Legal Counsel

**The ICRC commission discussed three different drafts for the Legal Counsel job posting that were submitted from member Harrow, member Saenz, and Chair Blanco; the commission also discussed logistics on the posting/hiring of their own staff. Member Saenz motioned to have one commission member contact the city’s budget office to discuss budget conflicts the commission is going through. Chair Blanco asked member Saenz if she would like to be the budget representative for the commission and be the person to contact the City’s budget office for answers and clarification. Commission Member Saenz agreed. Member Farris motioned the commission first determine the type of hire it will be, whether it be a contractor or an employee through the City of Austin, and after the vote is done, the commission will determine for which job description and how it is going to look. Member Llanes Pulido seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 13-0. (1 member abstained) Member Llanes Pulido motioned to have the commission hire Legal Counsel on a contract basis. Member Harrow seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 11-1 (2 members abstained). Member Harrow motioned the commission adopt Chair Blanco’s job posting for legal counsel, along with some changes made by the commission. Member Farris seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0. Commission members reviewed, discussed, and suggested changes to be made on the Legal Counsel job posting; upon completion of the draft job posting discussion, Vice Chair Costello suggested a vote on the acceptance of the changes. Chair Blanco stated the motion is to accept the proposed posting with changes that Chair Blanco just went through. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0. Vice Chair Costello motioned to post the Legal Counsel position on jobscore.com, as per the previous Executive Director posting, and wait for the Chair’s notification that we can post the job anywhere, and after that is done, to do so. Member Farris seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0.**

4. Subcommittee Reports:

- (a) Location and dates (Commissioner Solis)

- (b) Public web forum (Commissioner Rafols)

**(a) Member Solis presented her proposed schedule to the commission; a discussion followed, with questions and suggestions made about the schedule. Member Farris motioned to approve the August meetings as presented by Member Solis, and to have Member Solis move forward with determining locations and the agenda for those meetings. Member Hewitt seconded. Motion was passed on a vote of 14-0.**

**(b) Member Rafols recommended the commission not go forward with the public web forums until Legal Counsel is present to go over social media policies and any legal ramifications. Member Rafols mentioned the City’s PIO recommended the commission create an outreach committee specifically to post job postings, as well as to work with the City’s PIO for putting out any updated information. Chair Blanco stated the commission should move forward and leave details of the public web forum until Legal Counsel is present, and if there are any suggestions or comments about creating an outreach committee, to have it discussed at a future meeting.**

5. Executive Session-Possible Discussion of Executive Director position submissions  
**Chair Blanco mentioned her purpose of putting this item on the agenda was to preserve a section for handling any personnel matters, so that the commission can be transparent and open with the public. Chair Blanco stated to not move forward with this item today, but to wait until the commission receives more applications (4 applications had been received as of the meeting and were handed out at the meeting to all the commission members) so that the commission has more time to look at the resumes/applications that had been submitted, and the commission can discuss it openly at the next meeting.**
6. Housekeeping (email, communications, email, etc.)  
**Commission members discussed issues with email accounts, and made suggestions for ways to resolve it, including the request of having a designated technological person assigned to them. Commission members discussed the process for citizen communication that was done today and provided their feedback and thoughts. Chair Blanco said she was trying something a little different, but will take all the suggestions under advisement for future meetings.**
7. Future Agenda items  
**Member Hewitt stated the items to be discussed for next week's meeting will include member Saenz's report from the City's Budget Office, a report from member Solis on locations for future public meetings, a presentation from the Austin Neighborhood Council, discussion on Precinct 208, discussion on the Executive Director resumes/applications, discussion on posting of the Technical mapping consultant, discussion of creating a Commission Policy Manual, miscellaneous housekeeping items.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Blanco adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm without objection.