REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 1992 - 7:00 P.m.
Messiah Lutheran Church
570 E. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bogaard, at 7:20 p.m.

Present:

William Bogaard, Chairman
Susan Arcaris
Elias Galvan
Edward Garlock
Marvin Greer
Ann Hickambottom
Edward J. Matys
Edward Maya
Fred Register
Rosemary Schroeder
Paul Secord
Christopher Sutton

Absent:

Christina Cook
Dr. James King, Jr.
Joe Morales

Staff:

Victor Kaleta, City Attorney
Donald Nollar, Director, PBNS
Maria Stewart, Acting City Clerk

Consultants:

David Ely, Pactech
Manuel Valencia, Valencia, Maldonado & Echeveste

OPENING REMARKS: Chairman William Bogaard opened the meeting by stating the Task Force had conducted community meetings and received input from the public. He also pointed out redistricting articles printed by the news media.

DONALD NOLLAR: Mr. Nollar provided presentation for the following Saturday's meeting. He stated the primary issues would be the background for Saturday's discussion and if the additional time was needed, the Task Force could meet again on April 2.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Martin A. C. Enriquez-Marques expressed his thanks for this forum being available.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications.

DISCUSSION: Discussion ensued on exercises eight and nine, provided by David Ely, and on the available data on registered voters and census data relative to renters and non-renters, and to single family residences and multiple housing units. There was debate as to whether reviewing this data would provide a true picture of voting patterns and population. There was concern expressed about having too much information that might not be relative to the charge, and about moving away from the original charge to the Task Force.

POLICY QUESTIONS: Chairman Bogaard proceeded to ask the members present to answer each of the six policy questions to the best of their ability:

QUESTION NO. 1 *Within the requirements of the law, how important are the boundaries of the current districts? Should the boundaries of the new districts be changed as little as possible? Or should other options be explored?*

Marvin Greer	Stated district boundaries should be changed as little as possible and focus on creating a Hispanic District.
Fred Register	Stated he had no vested interest in the boundaries of the current districts, except as where they vote.
Paul Secord	Stated did not see any problem with regression of current districts.
Rosemary Schroeder	Stated the first criteria was to create a district that responded to the legal requirements and whatever was left over should be changed as little as possible.
Ed Matys	Stated the current boundary lines are elastic.
Susan Arcaris	Concurred with the last two speakers. Attempt should be to create a district that complied with legal guidelines.
Bill Bogaard	Stated that boundaries are important and that after meeting the first responsibility, remaining lines should be changed no more than necessary.
Edward Garlock	Stated that once the goal was fulfilled, the remaining boundaries should be left alone.
Ann Hickambottom	Agree with previous speaker.
Chris Sutton	Stated the requirement of the law required dramatic changes and that once the Voting Rights Act had been complied with, changes would be dealt with as they came along.
Elias Galvan	Stated if boundaries needed to be changed for legal requirements, then to do so, otherwise leave alone.
Edward Maya	Stated he felt a sense of great change needed from the nine exercises reviewed.

QUESTION NO. 2	*Should the present District One be maintained essentially as it is? Or should the two sides of the Arroyo Seco be placed in different districts?*
Paul Secord	Stated he did not like the idea of splitting the Rose Bowl in half, but may have to in order to meet legal requirements.
Rosemary Schroeder	Stated she was not convinced that the Rose Bowl couldn't be left whole under one Councilperson and that District 1 should be left as is.
Ed Matys	Stated that, staying within the legalities, after having listened to the testimony from neighborhood associations in the area who are in favor of keeping District 1 as it is, felt it a very compelling argument and should be guided by that argument.
Susan Arcaris	Stated her thoughts were the same as previous speaker, that groups wanted to stay together and any candidate may be elected.
Bill Bogaard	Stated he was reserving judgment on this question.
Ed Garlock	Had no answer to this question.
Ann Hickambottom	Stated she was not prepared to opine.
Chris Sutton	Stated that if District 1 stayed together, there would be a risk of litigation and long-term festering of problems.
Elias Galvan	Stated that it was important to ensure that minority voting was not diluted and it was difficult to see it happen without changing District 1.
Edward Maya	Stated that he would vote to split, at this point, but would like to hear more comments.
Marvin Greer	Stated he was concerned if split would create more polarization and added he would like to see more ethnic groups in District 1.
Fred Register	Stated that if he had to vote, it would be to split the district.
QUESTION NO. 3	*Should Colorado Boulevard continue to be the unifying focus for drawing council districts? Or is it acceptable for one or more districts not to border on Colorado Boulevard?*
Edward Matys	Stated favored having districts touch Colorado Boulevard.
Susan Arcaris	Stated undecided but if pressed her opinion would be to leave Colorado as a touchstone.
Bill Bogaard	Stated he supported Colorado Boulevard for the stability and compactness of districts, but end result, after this process will make Colorado no longer be the unifying focus.
Edward Garlock	Stated not necessary to have lines touching Colorado.
Ann Hickambottom	Stated not as important as other ides, but would be nice if all districts could touch Colorado.
Chris Sutton	Stated he did not think Colorado is special, did not see a problem if it didn't touch.
Elias Galvan	Stated Colorado not a main factor.
Edward Maya	Stated that, if after satisfying legal requirements, could maintain, would be alright, but needed more time to consider.

Marvin Greer	Stated did not think it is that significant.
Fred Register	Stated that the Task Force should not be held hostage to Colorado Boulevard and that other important goals should not be sacrificed to make sure all districts touched on Colorado.
Paul Secord	Stated he agreed with Fred Register.
Rosemary Schroeder	Stated she agreed with Fred Register.

QUESTION NO. 4 *Is it important for every district to include a mixture of residential and commercial areas? Or is it acceptable for one or more districts to be exclusively residential?*

Edward Garlock	Stated it is important to have a mixture.
Ann Hickambotton	Stated she needed to listen to more comments.
Chris Sutton	Stated would be impossible to draw a district that was all residential.
Elias Galvan	Stated he would be nervous to say that districts should not include commercial because commercial was very important.
Edward Maya	Stated all districts should have commercial areas and that "significant commercial areas" should be defined.
Marvin Greer	Stated he agreed with Chris Sutton.
Fred Register	Stated that it might be alright as long as it didn't violate criteria but would be healthier for every district to have a portion of commercial.
Paul Secord	Stated he agreed with Fred Register.
Rosemary Schroeder	Stated she concurred with last speaker, all land uses should mirror the City as much as possible without sacrificing other primary goals.
Edward Matys	Stated he agreed with Rosemary Schroeder and Fred Register.
Susan Arcaris	Stated it should be combination of residential and commercial.
Bill Bogaard	Stated he agreed with Susan Arcaris.

QUESTION NO. 5 *How important are the compact, easily recognizable districts? Should boundaries be drawn to maximize minority representation, even if the resulting district boundaries are irregular in appearance?*

Chris Sutton	Stated compact district could be produced with criteria, and that examples show it can be done.
Elias Galvan	Stated he agreed with concept to have recognizable lines.
Edward Maya	Stated he did not want compact, recognizable lines if can't accomplish goal.
Marvin Greer	Stated he was more concerned with maximizing Latino participation, and if after that was done it was possible, then it was alright.
Fred Register	Stated he thought people would tend to reject gerrymandering plans.
Paul Secord	Stated it was important that districts be recognizable, but had to be careful to maximize Latino population.
Rosemary Shroeder	Stated she agreed with Paul Secord.

Edward Matys	Stated he agreed also.
Susan Arcaris	Stated she agreed with districts that maximized the Latino population.
Bill Bogaard	Stated that compact district had value but the priority was to maximize the strength of the voters.
Edward Galvan	Stated he agreed with Mr. Bogaard.
Ann Hickambottom	Stated she agreed as well.

QUESTION NO. 6 *The law requires that we consider creating a district which will give Latinos the best possible chance for representation in the City Council. Since it is currently impossible to draw a district with a majority of Latino registered voters, what should be our first priority, a district with a maximum Latino population now? Or a district with a maximum potential for Latino representation over the course of the decade?*

Edward Maya	He stated that to create illusion that we can create a district that will maximize our potential based on voter registration would dilute the strength. He added that the issue was how can to create a situation where the population is not fractured. If there was assurance that the population distributed among three or four districts, so in future will have an impact in those districts, the 65% population requirement could be lowered if the portions were allocated in a way where ten years down the line the expansion would be as great as other districts.
Marvin Greer	Stated that the goal was to create an opportunity district within the confines of the law.
Fred Register	Stated he did not have a clear sense and was concerned that raw population would create very few registered voters. He added that the interest was in maximizing the voting age population.
Paul Secord	He stated he agreed with Fred Register and split difference between raw population and registered voters.
Rosemary Shroeder	Stated she agreed with Fred Register and split the difference.
Edward Matys	Stated he was undecided, but leaned toward voting age population as primary criteria.
Susan Arcaris	Stated that voting age and registered voters should be maximized.
Bill Bogaard	Stated that he considered the balancing of population and current registration.
Edward Garlock	Stated he agreed with Fred Register.
Ann Hickambottom	Questioned that if in maximizing empowerment, were raw population and registered voters mutually exclusive.
Chris Sutton	Stated that the issue of constituent service has been raised and that an elected official will serve the constituency in such a way that the official will either get re-elected or the constituency will elect someone else.
Elias Galvan	Stated that the registered voter factor was negligible and felt the need to maximize raw population and not dilute future voting strength.

DISCUSSION: Discussion ensued about splitting District 1 and about either maximizing the voting age population of the Hispanic population or the raw population. There was more discussion on balancing both raw and voter registration population.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Acting City Clerk requested permission to comment as a member of the public. She stated that, as much effort as the Task Force was putting into the creation of a Latino District, the Task Force had to consider to follow up its recommendation with a plan of action to educate and direct that new district into reaching the goal, otherwise the effort would be wasted.

Task Force Member Elias Galvan supported Ms. Stewart's comment and added that he had faith that through education and efforts such as citizenship drives and voter registration drives the prospective voters could be reached. Chairman Bogaard added that this would be a theme for the Task Force to consider.

Bob Fletcher, Director of Messiah Lutheran Church, thanked the Task Force, on behalf of the City, for making this forum possible.

Martin A.C. Enriquez Marques spoke on the options of maximizing raw population, registered voters and voting age population. He added that the Hispanic population should be spread around so it would have more impact and optimize voting City-wide.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Bogaard declared the meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

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