

MINUTES

BROWN COUNTY CITIZENS DRAFTING AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING #1

DECEMBER 17, 2020
BROWN COUNTY CENTRAL LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
5:30 PM

ROLL CALL:

David Atkins	<u>Present</u>
Robert Cook	<u>Present</u>
Randy Griswold	<u>Present</u>
Stan Kaczmarek	<u>Present</u>
Timothy Kneeland	<u>Present</u>
Christine Seidl	<u>Present</u>
Terri Trantow	<u>Present</u>

Others Present: Brown County Board of Supervisors Chairperson Patrick Buckley, Brown County Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairperson Tom Sieber, Brown County Planning Director Cole Runge, Brown County Senior Planner Devin Yoder, Brown County Planner Ker Vang, and members of the public.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Introductions.

P. Buckley welcomed the committee members and thanked them for serving on the committee.

The introductions were facilitated by C. Runge.

2. Selection of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Recording Secretary.

C. Runge asked the committee to nominate a committee chairperson. In the absence of nominations, S. Kaczmarek volunteered to serve as chairperson. The committee unanimously approved S. Kaczmarek's appointment as chairperson.

Following the appointment of S. Kaczmarek as chairperson, C. Runge turned the meeting over to S. Kaczmarek.

S. Kaczmarek asked for volunteers to serve as the committee's vice-chairperson, and D. Atkins volunteered. The committee unanimously approved D. Atkins' appointment as vice-chairperson.

S. Kaczmarek asked for volunteers to serve as the committee's recording secretary, and T. Trantow volunteered. The committee unanimously approved T. Trantow's appointment as recording secretary.

C. Runge stated that Brown County Planning staff will develop the minutes of each meeting using notes taken by T. Trantow and staff.

3. Presentation of the committee's purpose and role in the county redistricting process.

T. Sieber summarized the committee's purpose for the members. He stated that the committee was established by the Brown County Board of Supervisors to ensure the redistricting process is non-political and that county supervisors do not influence the development of the districts (which was an issue during past redistricting efforts). He also stated that the committee will work independently with county staff and that members of the Brown County Board of Supervisors will not be involved in the district map development process.

T. Sieber stated that staff was directed during past redistricting efforts to develop supervisory district options that prevented incumbents from having to run against each other in elections. However, the committee and staff should not consider the locations of incumbents when developing the new district maps.

Following this agenda item, P. Buckley and T. Sieber left the meeting.

4. Presentation of the process staff will follow to develop the district maps.

D. Yoder presented information regarding the map development process and conducted a demonstration of the software package staff will use to create the supervisory district maps. He stated that this software package was developed by the state and that all of the state's counties are using it to develop their new supervisory district maps.

D. Yoder stated that the primary goal is to establish supervisory districts that have populations that are as close to equal as possible. He also stated that the software package is designed to indicate when the mapped supervisory districts are within the acceptable population parameters.

C. Runge summarized the map development rules and recommendations in Brown County's redistricting ordinance (Chapter 15 of the Brown County Code). For example, the redistricting ordinance states that the new maps cannot increase or decrease the current number of supervisory districts by more than two. C. Runge also summarized the challenges staff will face when developing the maps. One of these challenges will be that the district boundaries must follow US Census block boundaries regardless of the blocks' sizes.

Discussion occurred regarding how the county's supervisory districts were established following previous decennial censuses.

A question was asked about how the US Census Bureau determines the location of census blocks.

D. Yoder stated that the US Census Bureau uses roads, railroads, water bodies, municipal boundaries, and a variety of other natural and human-made features to establish the block boundaries.

C. Runge stated that federal law requires the US Census Bureau to provide states the data necessary to develop new election districts by April 1, 2021. However, the US Census Bureau recently indicated that anomalies have been found in the data, and it is possible that these anomalies will prevent the data from being provided to the states by the April 1 deadline. C. Runge also stated that staff will have 30 days to prepare the district map alternatives after receiving the data.

5. Establishment of criteria for developing the maps.

C. Runge summarized the map development criteria identified in Brown County's redistricting ordinance. He stated that these criteria are recommended, not required. He also stated that staff is asking the committee to establish and weight the criteria that will be used to develop the draft district maps. Staff is asking the committee to weight the criteria so staff knows how to address mapping situations like having to decide if a district boundary should follow a municipal boundary or a natural boundary.

After discussing possible mapping criteria, members of the committee suggested that the committee take some time to learn the current supervisory district boundaries and think about criteria they believe should be established for this mapping effort. Staff agreed with this suggestion, and the committee decided that the criteria establishment and weighting exercise should occur at a second committee meeting in late January of 2021.

S. Kaczmarek suggested that the next committee meeting be scheduled for either January 21 or January 28, and the committee members agreed.

6. Discussion of next steps.

Staff stated it will send the following information to the committee before the next meeting:

- A link to the current county supervisory district map on the Brown County website.
- The names of the committee members.
- An interpretation of the meaning of "Communities of Interest" in the Brown County redistricting ordinance.

7. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.