**Utah Independent Redistricting Commission**

**Commission Meeting Minutes**

Anchor Location: Taylorsville State Office Building

Bonneville Room Floor 3

4315 South 2700 West

Taylorsville, UT 84129-2128

April 13, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Public Meeting Minutes

Attendance - Commission Members

Chair, Utah Independent Redistricting Commission - Rex Facer

Commissioner Lyle Hillyard

Commissioner Jeff Baker

Commissioner William A. Thorne

Commissioner Rob Bishop

Commissioner Christine M. Durham

Commissioner Pat Jones (absent)

Attendance - Staff and Others in Attendance at Anchor Location:

Barbara Sutherland, Division of Finance

Teresa Facer

Moira Facer

John Franchi, Channel 13 News, accompanied by camera man

Note: A copy of meeting materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found on the Public Notice Website. The minutes may refer to the recording found on the Public Notice Website with the number where an issue is being discussed.

1. Welcome:

Commission Chair, Rex Facer welcomed everyone to the inaugural Utah Independent Redistricting Commission. He proceeded to introduce the members of the Commission. Commissioner Pat Jones was not in attendance, she has resigned from the commission for personal reasons. Ms. Jones should be replaced by the end of this week. Chair Rex Facer welcomed all who had joined the meeting online as well.

He explained that the meeting today will largely be administrative.

Commission Chair Facer asked the members of the Commission to introduce themselves, with a brief introduction.

1. Commission Introductions:

* Commissioner Lyle Hillyard, was born and raised in Cache Valley, graduated from Utah State University, and went to the University of Utah Law School. He returned to Logan, UT after Law School and set up his own law firm, he has been there over 50 years. He served four years in the House of Representatives, and 36 years in the Utah State Senate. He served through four reapportionments as a Senator and House member, but this is the first time he has been on a redistricting committee. Commissioner Hillyard’s goal is to get some kind of peace, with the reapportionments.
* Commissioner Jeff Baker lives in Clearfield, but was raised in Southern California. He graduated from Brigham Young University. After spending a short time in the Air Force, he has been involved in Geographic Information Systems, which has been his career for the last 26 years. He is married, and together he and his wife have 9 children.
* Commissioner William A. Thorne served as a Judge for 34 years. He retired 8 years ago from the Utah Court of Appeals. He has served on one national commission, where he learned valuable lessons from the Chair and the Co-Chair of that commission. They taught him not to make, “the perfect enemy of the good, and to do the best that they can, and not get stuck trying to get the perfect solution, but to get one that is fair”.
* Commissioner Rob Bishop, was born in Kaysville, UT and lives in Brigham City, UT. He came to the Legislature around the same time as Commissioner Hillyard, but he has been involved in all four of the redistricting issues. He feels the biggest problem they have is the calendar. If they wait until August or September, there will be an enormous amount of pressure on the commission, as well as the legislators. They will need to be creative to meet the deadlines.
* Commissioner Christine M. Durham, has lived in Utah since 1973, she has been a Utah State Judge for 39 years. She retired from the Utah Supreme Court 3 years ago, and has been working for an appellate law firm doing appellate work, and volunteer work. She is excited about this opportunity and anticipates learning a great deal. She is hopeful this commission will be in a position to have enough credibility to make useful contributions to the redistricting discussion. Because of the time limit, she feels the Commission will have to work twice as hard to meet the expectations that people have of the Commission.
* Commission Chair Rex Facer, has been on the faculty of Brigham Young University, for 20 years. He primarily teaches classes in Public Policy, and Human Resource Management. He grew up in Oregon, and came to Utah to go to BYU for his undergraduate degree, and then a master’s degree. He moved to Georgia for 8 years and returned to Utah to teach at BYU. Chair Facer introduced his wife Teresa, and daughter Moira, that joined the commission meeting this evening.

1. Schedule upcoming meetings:

Commission Chair Rex Facer realizes everyone is busy, but at some point the commission will need to meet more frequently. He suggested meeting every other week for a month or two. The preference of the commission is to have the meetings in the evening. It was also suggested to have longer meetings, instead of more frequent ones.

Chair Facer would like to do some redistricting 101 training at the next meeting. Commissioner Baker has been involved in some redistricting issues with Davis County, and he will present this information to the commission. There are some experts who are looking at current maps from a mathematical and scientific perspective, and they will also present this information at the next meeting. There are personnel matters that will also need to be discussed.

It was discussed and decided to have the next Utah Independent Redistricting Commission meeting on April 27, 2021, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

1. GRAMA and Open and Public Meetings training by Bryan Nalder, Assistant Attorney General:

Bryan Nalder from the Attorney General’s Office presented the Open and Public Meeting training, as well as an overview of the Government Records Management Act (GRAMA). You may find the audio of the training on the recording of the meeting on the Public Notice Website, <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/> refer to 16:14 of the recording. The power point presentations are located there as well.

At this point of the meeting they encountered some technical issues with the zoom meeting, and the meeting was adjourned for a short break.

The meeting reconvened, Chair Facer is hoping that the meeting could go forward as planned without problems.

It was decided to use a different technology format, and have an IT person available for future meetings. The meeting continued.

1. Executive Director Search: Update and Selection Committee

There are 10 applicants for the Executive Director position. It was suggested that there be a Democratic Commissioner and a Republican Commissioner, join Commission Chair Facer to interview the applicants.

It was discussed that the Executive Director and Legal Counsel, would not be able to hold a political office. Commission Chair Facer explained that it was specifically stated in the RFP for the legal counsel, and the conversation will also be discussed with the new Executive Director.

Because of the continuing interruptions with the zoom meeting, it was decided to adjourn. Commissioner Hillyard moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Durham seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.