**Commission Meeting Minutes**

The following are the minutes of the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission meeting. The meeting was held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Taylorsville State Office Building Room #1400, 4315 South 2700 West, Taylorsville, UT 84129-2128.

*Attendance* - Commission Members

Chair, Utah Independent Redistricting Commission - Rex Facer

Commissioner Lyle Hillyard

Commissioner Jeff Baker

Commissioner William A. Thorne

Commissioner Karen Hale

*Attendance* - Staff and Others in Attendance at Anchor Location:

Gordon Haight, UIRC Executive Director

Aly Escobar, Administrative Coordinator

Christelle Gatoro, Intern

Sariah Bennion, Intern

Matt Cannon, Legal Counsel from Ray Quinney & Nebeker

Teresa Facer, Volunteer

Tonya Baker

*Attendance* – Staff and Others in Attendance Virtually

Commissioner Rob Bishop

Aaron Evans, Love Communication

Autumn Lee, Intern

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 approximate number on the recording where an issue is being discussed.

1. Welcome - Chair Rex Facer

Chair Facer welcomed the Commissioners and noted Commissioner Bishop appearing online. He also noted that Commissioner Durham was not yet in attendance at the start of the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

1. Introduction: Sariah Bennion and Autumn Lee, Interns

Chair Facer turned the time to Sariah Bennion and Autumn Lee to introduce themselves. Sariah is a recent graduate of the MPA program at BYU and will be working as an intern. Autumn is a senior in the Geography Program at BYU and will be working as a GIS intern.

1. Action Item: Approval of the Minutes of June 8, 2021 and June 15, 2021

Chair Facer asked for any corrections if any corrections were needed for the minutes related to the meeting of June 8, 2021.

*Commissioner Hillyard motioned to approve minutes.*

*Commissioner Thorne seconded the motion.*

 *The motion was put to a roll call vote. The votes were recorded as follows:*

*Commissioner Lyle Hillyard Aye*

*Commissioner Jeff Baker Aye*

*Chair Commissioner Rex Facer Aye*

*Commissioner Karen Hale Aye*

*Commissioner William A. Thorne Aye*

*Commissioner Rob Bishop Aye*

 The discussion turned to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2021 meeting.

 *Commissioner Hillyard moved to approve the minutes.*

 *Commissioner Hale seconded the motion.*

*The motion was put to a roll call vote. The votes were recorded as follows:*

*Commissioner Lyle Hillyard Aye*

*Commissioner Jeff Baker Aye*

*Chair Commissioner Rex Facer Aye*

*Commissioner Karen Hale Aye*

*Commissioner William A. Thorne Aye*

*Commissioner Rob Bishop Aye*

1. Presentation: General Legal Discussion - Matt Canon

Matt Cannon presented to the Commissioners a drafted code of conduct, noting a desire to communicate the legal and ethical requirements for the commissioners in a clear manner. He noted some previous communications would indicate some commissioners would be interested in adopting such a code. Commissioner Hillyard noted that section four discussed some details of accepting gifts and suggested that the commissioners do not take gifts regardless of whether or not the gift is in exchange for anything. Matt said that he would update the drafted code with that recommendation and they would possibly hold a vote on the drafted code in a future meeting. Matt explained that the counsel had prepared a presentation regarding communication requirements based on previous comments and questions from the commissioners.

Please refer to 9:09 in the recording of the meeting to view this presentation. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 29, 2021, post. https://www.utah.gov/pmn/

This presentation focused on statutory requirements and limitations regarding commissioners' communication with the public regarding the redistricting process. In addition, Matt noted some future work of the legal counsel, including adopting budget procedures and HR procedures. Matt also mentioned having the contact information for legal counsels for commissions from several other states, with a possibility of reaching out to them regarding their experiences.

1. Action Item: Approve Budget Amendment - Gordon Haight (Commission motion required)

Gordon presented a PowerPoint presentation relating to the budget of the commission.

The PowerPoint presentation is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 29, 2021, post. https://www.utah.gov/pmn

Gordon presented the itemized budget as it stands, including approximately $91,000 of discretionary spending that will largely be left untouched for the next few months. Commissioner Hillyard asked questions regarding the initial amount provided for the commission as well as clarifying that the money will be spent just by the commission. Commissioner Thorne asked questions about whether or not the staff will be increasing. Gordon noted that with offers up to seven interns had been hired with plans for nine interns being hired in total. Commissioner Thorne asked for a list of staffers and contact information so commissioners can recognize when calls and emails come from staffers.

 Chair Facer explained that a motion seemed in order given the changes from previous budget discussions.

*Commissioner Hillyard moved to approve the budget as amended*

*Commissioner Baker second the motion*

*The votes were recorded as follows:*

*Commissioner Lyle Hillyard Aye*

*Commissioner Jeff Baker Aye*

*Chair Commissioner Rex Facer Aye*

*Commissioner Karen Hale Aye*

*Commissioner William A. Thorne Aye*

Gordon noted that Commissioner Bishop had informed him that he would be missing a portion of the meeting. Chair Facer noted Commissioner Bishop’s absence from the vote but the five commissioners in attendance constitute a quorum and so the motion passes.

1. Presentation: Public Outreach Events - Gordon Haight

Gordon explained that staff would be presenting a few projects relating to public outreach especially for public outreach before the census data is released on August 16.

Aly Escobar presented the commission’s website. Please refer to 01:16:00 in the recording to view the presentation. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 29, 2021, post. https://www.utah.gov/pmn/

This website is now live and can be accessed at uirc.utah.gov

During this presentation commissioners and staff also discussed details of educating the public regarding the statutory requirements for maps.

Christele Gatoro presented marketing materials to be used in outreach efforts. Please refer to 01:26:00 in the recording to view this presentation. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 29, 2021, post. https://www.utah.gov/pmn/

Chair Facer mentioned to the other commissioners that staff will be hosting booths in West Jordan and Provo the weekend of July 2, as part of the outreach efforts.

Gordon Haight then presented scheduled and proposed events for staff to attend. Please refer to 01:33:00 in the recording. The recording is posted to the Public Notice Website on the June 29, 2021, post. https://www.utah.gov/pmn/ for the proposed list as well as discussion around the details for these events. Christelle also presented the idea of a standalone event. Commissioner Hillyard raised some questions regarding a standalone event. He also asked about whether a meeting should be held August 17, considering the release of census data during that week in August.

Gordon explained some efforts and ideas about working with outside organizations, including a short event with Silicon Slopes. Chair Facer talked more about the event with Silicon Slopes and the potential of outside organizations hosting events on behalf of the commission. Commissioner Hale expressed that where possible, these events should be prioritized as an opportunity to really hear from the community. Commissioner Hillyard suggested reaching out to the Logan Visitor’s Center regarding possible events to visit as part of the outreach efforts. Chair Facer and Gordon discussed the scheduling of events and invited the other commissioners to give suggestions for events. Gordon referred to the schedule and suggested that the commission meetings at the end of August focus on the actual mapping process.

1. Action Item: Discussion and approval of schedule and locations for public hearings across the state – Chair Rex Facer (Commission motion required)

Gordon Haight presented the current schedule for the statutorily required commission meetings. He explained that the locations can still be changed.

Chair Facer then asked if there were any cities on the schedule that should be changed.

Commissioner Thorne suggested that a meeting be held in Roosevelt over Duchesne.

Commissioner Hillyard suggested adding another meeting in Ogden.

Chair Facer suggested that a second Utah County City should perhaps be added, perhaps in the more southern area of the county.

Commissioner Hillyard, Chair Facer, and Gordon discussed how events should be tracked and attended.

Chair Facer asked if, with suggested changes, the commission would like to approve the proposed schedule of meetings. Commissioner Hillyard and Chair Facer suggested that the dates for the Logan meeting and Layton meeting be swapped.

*Commissioner Hale made a motion to adopt as a tentative with the suggested changes.*

*Commissioner Baker second the motion*

*The votes were recorded as follows:*

*Commissioner Lyle Hillyard Aye*

*Commissioner Jeff Baker Aye*

*Chair Commissioner Rex Facer Aye*

*Commissioner Karen Hale Aye*

*Commissioner William A. Thorne Aye*

Chair Facer noted Commissioner Bishop’s video having disconnected but recognized the voting commissioners still constituted a quorum and the motion carried.

Commissioner Hillyard asked for phone numbers for the other commissioners and Gordon said that staff would facilitate giving commissioners contact information.

1. Discussion: Logistics on Mapping – Gordon Haight

Chair Facer introduced the agenda item and again mentioned the complexity in finding a process for discussion and mapping between the commissioners. Gordon suggested a practice session be held before the release of the census data. Chair Facer and Gordon explained that this will be an ongoing process to find the best way for commissioners to work with staff and GIS volunteers to draw the maps.

Gordon suggested that staff attend events in certain areas can work with each group of commissioners to share what they hear in various parts of the state. Some potential ideas and specifics for the mapping process were discussed by Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Hillyard, and Chair Facer.

Commissioner Baker suggested working in groups of two, two, and three. In this discussion around mapping, Commissioner Hillyard expressed a desire to not receive information regarding political affiliation. Commissioner Thorne and Commissioner Hale agreed with this sentiment. Chair Facer suggested that a group decision should be made on whether to consider party information as it is optional in the statute. The Chair also suggested that this party information not be considered.

Commissioner Hillyard further suggested not knowing or considering where incumbents live, as to not advantage or disadvantage incumbents. Chair Facer and other commissioners agreed with this as well. Commissioner Hillyard asked that outreach be focused on working with the legislature rather than acting antagonistic.

Commissioner Hale mentioned Commissioner Baker’s suggestion that commissioners work in teams for mapping. Chair Facer suggested that the mapping practice would be tried in teams. Details around how to discuss and combine each team’s map were discussed by the commission.

It was noted that Aaron Evans from Love Communication was on the call for any question regarding the marketing materials.

Commissioner Baker asked about timelines regarding GIS information from counties around the state. Gordon mentioned that staff was working with the lieutenant governor’s office on that. Commissioner Baker mentioned that annexation had been discussed in a previous meeting, and suggested that there might be some consideration of roads and relevant construction.

Chair Facer also noted the upcoming redistricting conference and suggested that the commissioners strategize to attend various sessions.

Matt Canon also suggested that care is taken with communication as it relates to possible GRAMA requests.

*Commissioner Hillyard moved to adjourned the meeting.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.