MINUTES
REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE
Community Meeting
May 14, 1992 7:00 p.m.
Pasadena Conference Center

300 E. Green Street, Room 222, Pasadena

Acting Chairman Marvin Greer called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Acting Chairman Greer briefly discussed the importance of the redistricting process.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Susan Arcaris

Christina Cook Elias Galvan Edward Garlock Marvin Greer

Ann Marie Hickambottom (Arrived 7:45 p.m.)

Dr. James King, Jr. Edward J. Matys Edward Maya Joe Morales Fred Register Rosemary Schroeder

Paul Secord

Christopher Sutton

Absent:

William J. Bogaard

Staff:

Victor J. Kaleta, City Attorney

Jane L. Rodriguez, Acting Asst. City Clerk

Consultants:

David Ely, Pactech

Manuel Valencia, Valencia, Maldonado & Escheveste

Victor Kaleta, City Attorney, reviewed the criteria the Task Force needs to consider.

Acting Chairman Greer announced that on May 16th another public meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church on the corner of Madison and Orange Grove.

David Ely, consultant, reviewed the four concepts which were presented and gave a brief description of the proposed districts on each of the concept maps.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Rev. David Scott stated he had heard the Task Force was trying to create a Hispanic district and push out one of the Councilmembers. Task Force member Fred Register responded that there are no plans before the Task Force that would have a minority Councilmember running against another Councilmember. Rev. Scott stated District 1 is able to elect Black candidates and voiced his opposition to splitting District 1. He added it was a political movement to split District 1.

- 2. Ms. Doris Gardner spoke in favor of Concept B.
- 3. Mr. Stephen Mack, 825 Chapman Avenue, voiced his opposition to splitting District 1, creating Black and White communities, and putting the Rose Bowl and the Golf Course with the Linda Vista area.
- 4. Ms. Phoebe Wall Wilson, Chair of the Planning Commission and speaking on behalf of the Planning Commission, questioned whether the Task Force had considered planning and land use implications of the various district alternatives and stated that the splitting up of neighborhoods and commercial districts will have planning considerations. Ms. Wilson briefly discussed the Bungalow Heaven area and how it has definite zoning and general plan matters that would be split up if Bungalow Heaven was divided in two districts.
- 5. Mr. Daniel V. Hyde, President of Oak Knoll Improvement Association located in District 7 south of the Lake Avenue Business District, stated the Board of Directors of the Association is strongly opposed to Concept A. He stated several concerns: 1) Concept A would join the Oak Knoll area together with other areas that do not have a common interest. 2) It divides the Association from the South Lake Business District. 3) District F in Concept A has 1/3 to 1/4 of all voters in municipal elections in one district. 4) Concept A seeks to segregate the community and the whole of Pasadena into distinct racial, economic, social and commercial districts and will polarize the community.

Mr. Hyde stated the Association's Board did not have a position on the other concepts, but it will after Concept A is off the table. Mr. Hyde stated he personally likes Concept C the best. He voiced a concern with Concept B in regard to splitting District 1, stating there is an advantage to a district that sometimes has a Black representative and sometimes a White representative.

The City Attorney responded to a statement regarding the issue of too many registered voters in one district by stating that this is not a criteria under the Voting Rights Act. Task Force member Christopher Sutton referenced the case of <u>Calderon v. City of Los Angeles</u> and the impermissibility of this being a criteria.

Task Force member Dr. King questioned whether the Task Force has responded to the charge given by the City Council, adding that the Task Force needs to be very clear as to what its been asked to do. Acting Chair Marvin Greer suggested finishing with the public speakers and then returning to this issue.

6. Mr. Don Meaders, member of Oak Knoll Improvement Association Board and former resident of the Linda Vista area, spoke in opposition to Concept A. He discussed disenfranchisement of single-family residences, segregated public schools, alienation from the volunteer process, and more polarization in the City as a result of this redistricting move. He voiced his opposition to grouping Black people who live on the East Arroyo with other Blacks regardless of their economic interest and affinity with other homeowners, and referred to that as racism. He asked the Task Force to reject Concept A.

- 7. Mr. Fred Brandt, board member of the Oak Knoll Improvement Association, spoke in opposition to Concept A and in separating the Oak Knoll area from the South Lake Shopping District. He was opposed to using California Boulevard as the district dividing line and stated the line should go up to Colorado Boulevard.
- 8. Mr. Sandy Mallace, resident of District 7 and member of the Oak Knoll Improvement Association, spoke in opposition to Concepts A and B, and expressed concern with each district not having a commercial area.
- 9. Ms. Whitney Ray-Dawson, Vice President of Madison Heights Neighborhood Association and speaking on behalf of the Association, stated that the Association's board is opposed to Concept A and urges the Task Force to base its recommendation to the City Council on Concepts B, C or D.
- 10. Ms. Nina Chomsky, speaking as a resident of District 1, voiced her opposition to Concepts A and B. She spoke in favor of keeping District 1 as it is currently, and briefly discussed the advantages of District 1 being diverse.
- 11. Mr. William Crowfoot, 1187 N. Catalina, stated the Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association is currently represented by two Councilmembers. He discussed the difficulties the Association has had by being split in two districts. He stated all four concepts split the Neighborhood Association, and added that the Association wants a district which will keep it together.
- 12. Mr. Joseph Hopkins referred to a letter he had written to the <u>Star-News</u> which questioned the redistricting process and establishment of districts based on race. Mr. Hopkins stated that the primary criteria guiding the Task Force is race, and spoke in opposition to creating segregated districts based on race.
- 13. Ms. Susan McManigal, member of the Board of Directors of the South Lake Business Improvement District, stated the District is opposed to Concept A because: it divides South Lake Business Improvement District in two districts; divides the campus of Caltech; separates the Business District from Madison Heights and Oak Knoll neighborhoods; places South Lake and the Ritz Carlton in two separate districts; does not consider communities of interest; and projects a worse scenario for Latino representation.
- 14. Ms. Lydia Palmer, speaking on behalf of El Centro de Accion Social and its constituency, stated El Centro supports Concept A because El Centro feels it is the closest plan that does not violate the Civil Rights Act and does not dilute the Latino population. She added that District C of Concept A allows for sufficient cohesiveness in neighborhoods and enhances voting strength. Ms. Palmer stated the in talking to the community and its leaders, Concept B was reviewed closely but it is not as compact as Concept A. She stated that Concepts C and D were not closely reviewed.
- 15. Mr. Charles Graves urged the Task Force to empower all Pasadenans -- not just Linda Vista residents, and voiced his full support for Concept B.
- 16. Ms. Audrey Brentley spoke in favor of Concept C and voiced her opposition to separating District 1.

- 17. Ms. Roberta Bratenahl stated she supports everything Ms. Brently, Rev. Scott, Stephen Mack, and Nina Chomsky said.
- 18. Mr. Cam Currier, Vice President of the Linda Vista Annandale Association, questioned whether all four concepts get approval of the Voting Rights Act. The City Attorney responded that he may have to defend one of these plans and did not want to get too categorical. He stated Concepts C and D are more difficult to defend under the Voting Rights Act than Concepts A and B.

Mr. Currier voiced his opposition to splitting District 1 and stated that Linda Vista is comfortable with the District being diverse.

- 19. Mr. Martin Enriquez-Marquez voiced his opposition to Concepts C and D. He stated Concepts A and B are all right, although they could be better, and added that Concept A brings about greater diversity.
- 20. Mr. Hall Daily, employee of Caltech, clarified a comment made earlier regarding splitting Caltech in two districts. He stated that in terms of population, 98% of the campus lives north of California Boulevard. He added that according to the law, Caltech is not a community of interest. He stated that in Concept A the Task Force may be fracturing a genuine community of interest over east/west arterial traffic in the southern half of the city.
- 21. Mayor Rick Cole stated that his earlier criticism of the way the plans evolved is not a criticism of the way the Task Force has done its job. He also reminded the Task Force that it would not satisfy everyone, and urged the Task Force to think broadly and remember the good of the entire community.

Due to the lateness of the hour, Dr. King deferred the issue he raised earlier regarding the charge given to the Task Force by the City Council.

Motion by Edward Garlock, seconded by Joe Morales, to accept public comment at the May 16th meeting but defer deliberations on a final recommendation until Chairman Bogaard is present. (Motion carried) (Opposed: Dr. King)

Vice Chairman Greer adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

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Acting Asst. City Clerk

NOTE: On order of the Chairman, these minutes were approved on July 31, 1992.