

City of Edmonton: Ward Boundary Commission

Minutes

April 28, 2020 | 3:30pm - 6:20pm | Convened through Google Hangouts

Commission: J. Wesley (*Chair*), S. Lee (*Vice Chair*), L.Bjork, M. Pungur Buick, S. Raitz, A. Sinclair, K. So

Administration: A. Giesbrecht, C. Heywood (*Recorder*), I. MacLean

Regrets:

Call to Order: 3:30pm

Agenda Review & Approval of Minutes	Decision
Moved: by M. Pungur-Buick to adopt the meeting agenda	Carried
Moved: by A. Sinclair to approve the Minutes from the April 7 meeting, with one amendment: Add K.So to the list of attending Commission members	Carried

Administration Update	Information
<p>The Commission received an update from the City Clerk regarding Council's discussion of Administration's proposed amendment to <i>Bylaw 18893: Ward Boundary Commission</i>. Following approval at the meeting of City Council on April 27th, the Commission are now required to submit their Report no later than July 31, 2020.</p> <p>As per the Commission's approved Report Development timeline, the presentation of the Commission's Final Report remains on the agenda for the May 25th meeting of City Council as a priority item.</p>	

Commission Capacity: Work Plan Review	Decision
<p>The Commission discussed their collective capacity to adhere to the milestones as described in the Report Development timeline.</p> <p>The Commission discussed the specifics of the delivery of their Report in light of the changes necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Clarity was provided by the City Clerk that a recent ministerial order has changed the ways in which residents can speak to items on a Council agenda.</p> <p>The Commission indicated their preference to release their Report early to give residents an opportunity to view their recommendations and share their feedback with members of Council. Following discussion, the Commission adjust their Report Development Timeline to reflect the following milestones:</p> <p>May 1st - Report sections completed and shared with Commission Chair May 5th - Final draft circulated to Commission members by Commission Chair May 12th - Commission Meeting - Report Review and Approval</p>	

May 14th - Final Report Released

Draft Report | Boundaries

Decision

The Commission reviewed the amendments made to the Boundary Concept Map following the direction provided to Administration. The Commission determined that additional changes to the proposed boundaries are not required.

The Commission requested that the voter dataset be overlaid on to their concept map to provide an indication of whether proposed boundaries align with the criteria to create a relative balance of electors.

The Commission discussed how to label wards in the Final Report. The Commission determined that letters would be retained and that a brief section would be added to the Report indicating that the Commission has no recommendation on how Wards should be identified to the public by City Council. Administration confirmed that there is no legislated requirement to identify wards in a particular manner for the purpose of facilitating a municipal election.

The Commission discussed how Wards should be labelled in the Final Report and directed Administration to amend the concept model to reflect the following changes:
A-B, B-C, C-D, D-E, E-F, F-G, G-A, H-H, I-I, J-K, K-J, L- L

The Commission requested that Administration produce maps of each individual ward, with the boundaries and major roadways clearly identified in the illustration alongside an accompanying high level description. The metes and bounds will be developed following Council's direction, if required.

Draft Report | Policy

Decision

The Commission reviewed and suggested revisions to the draft content of the policy section of the Report.

The Commission requested that the definitions of a neighbourhood used by Development Services are made available to them.
Circulated by April 30 - comments by end of May 1

Draft Report | Process

Decision

Circulated by April 30 - comments by end of May 1
The Commission reviewed and suggested changes to the draft content of the process section of the Report.

Draft Report | Introduction

Decision

The Commission reviewed and suggested changes to the draft content of the introduction of the Report.

The Commission requested that Administration produce a description of how population forecasting data is developed for inclusion in the Report. This description should be vetted and approved by those responsible for producing the information.

Commission Capacity: Work Plan Review**Decision**

JW to consolidate drafts - edit for Copy - turn to Chris on May 4 - Chris will format by May 5
The Commission further discussed capacity and confirmed the amended report development timeline.

Meeting Review**Information**

To discuss presentation

Adjournment: 6:17pm