

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

May 30, 1991

Metro Center, Room 335

Committee Members Present: Richard Devlin (Chair), David Knowles (Vice Chair), Tanya Collier, Tom DeJardin, Sandi Hansen

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Councilors Present: Roger Buchanan

Chair Devlin called the special meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. Work session on Council District Reapportionment

Dan Cooper, General Counsel, reported to the Committee on issues relating to reapportionment. He said Congressional reapportionment required lower population variances. He noted population variances with the Council reapportionment could be plus or minus five percent. He said population variance could be even greater if it could be substantially justified.

Mr. Cooper informed the Committee in addition to the considerations outlined in the statute, the Committee could also consider other factors as long as they are not impermissible. He said an example of an impermissible act would be to dilute minority representation. He advised keeping record of the reasons for considering other factors.

Mr. Cooper said under earlier reapportionment, county boundaries were not considered. He said now the statute includes considering county boundaries. He said if county boundaries were not considered, a justifiable explanation needed to be given.

In conclusion, Mr. Cooper advised the Committee to keep the population variance closer to two percent and avoid diluting minority representation.

Casey Short, Council Analyst, gave a narrative of the approach used to arrive at the first draft plan. He said the physical configuration each of the districts was adjusted to make them less peculiar in shape (for example, District 2 was no longer star shaped). He said community interests were considered, such as neighborhood associations. He then gave an overview of the boundary changes in each District of the draft plan. The drawbacks he noted in the first draft were, 1) the black population in Districts 11 and 12 had changed; 2) a portion of Beaverton was not included in District 2; and 3) the deviation was closer to five percent.

Andy Cotugno, Transportation Director, stated population figures in Multnomah County justified 7 District seats. He said by starting with a reapportionment plan in Multnomah County, the problem could be separated into two tasks, Multnomah County with 7 Districts and Washington and Clackamas Counties with a combined 6 Districts. He said the idea was just one approach that might be considered and continued with comments on how it might be implemented.

First Motion: Councilor Collier moved to adjust the draft plan to 1) create a black population as much as or greater than what currently exists in either District 11 or 12; 2) correct the Beaverton omission; and 3) change the population variation to one to two percent.

Vote on First Motion: All those present voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the first motion passed.

Councilor Buchanan requested Councilor Bauer's plan be considered.

Second Motion: Councilor Hansen moved to draft Councilor Bauer's plan.

Vote on Second Motion: All those present voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the second motion passed.

By consensus, the Committee requested streets be easier to identify, particularly those near District boundaries.

Chair Devlin recessed the meeting at 4:55 p.m. The Committee reconvened at 5:15 p.m.

Mark Bosworth and Dave Drescher, Assistant Regional Planners, gave the Committee a demonstration of the computer software used in the reapportionment process. The Committee continued the meeting in a computer work session with staff assistance.

Chair Devlin adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Lee  
Committee Clerk