

City of Edmonton: Ward Boundary Commission

Minutes (Draft)

November 26th, 2019 | 12pm - 1:30pm | Boardroom, Office of the City Clerk, City Hall

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

Administration: C. Heywood (Recorder), I. MacLean, A. Young (Senior GIS Planning Technician)

Regrets:

Guests:

Call to Order: 12:04pm

Agenda Review & Approval of Minutes	Decision
Moved: By MPB to adopt the meeting Agenda	Carried
Moved: By KS to approve the Minutes from the November 5, 2019 meeting	Carried

Administration Updates	Information
<p>Stakeholder Engagement Administration will provide a draft of the consultation invitation to be circulated to City Councilors by Friday, November 29. The Commission requests that Administration circulate the consolidated notes from the Elections and census Office’s meetings with Councillors for their review. Administration will send a follow-up message to those stakeholders who have not responded to the consultation invitation by Friday, November 29.</p>	
<p>Drop-in PE Sessions The Commission requests that Administration circulate the Drop-In Session plan developed by Emerge Solutions for their information. Discussion regarding potential locations for drop-in sessions. Administration will develop and distribute a sign-up sheet for Commission members once schedule is confirmed</p>	
<p>Communications Plan Discussion regarding the draft Communications Plan. Administration will extract the pertinent aspects regarding Drop-in Sessions and elevate them for further review and discussion.</p>	
<p>Administration will develop a draft Key Message document for Commission members to support consistent responses to preempted questions posed by residents. This will be reviewed at the December Commission meeting.</p>	

Mapping Concepts

Decision

Commission review and discussion of preliminary Mapping Concepts:

Number of Voters

Discussion regarding opportunities to develop growth projections for the number of eligible voters.

Action: Administration will connect with Elections Alberta to request access to the provincial voters list.

Assigned to I.MacLane.

Ward Distribution

River as a boundary

Discussion regarding the implications of designing wards that are intersected by the River.

There may be opportunities for the 'core' or 'downtown' ward to straddle the river given the prevalence of bridges and the precedent established by previous municipal ward boundaries and provincial electoral ward boundaries.

Wards in the North East could also straddle the river, although the low population in these areas is such that there may be no compelling reason to.

Wards dissected by the river in the South West of the City could create logistical challenges for Councillors.

Sustainability of a 'downtown' ward

Discussion regarding the downtown ward and its unique composition in terms of demographics, social issues and diverse land use.

Discussion regarding whether a decision regarding the sustainability of a 'downtown' ward can be made primarily on population growth projections.

Discussion regarding the neighbourhoods that could be added to the 'downtown' ward: Riverdale, the Connors Road neighbourhoods

Population growth

Discussion regarding whether the current composition of wards in the northern parts of the city is sustainable given the relatively low existing population and comparable slower rate of projected growth:

Would creating fewer but larger Wards on the north end alleviate some of the pressure on the south of the river, where significant residential growth is expected?

Does creating a core ward that is dissected by the river provide an interim solution?

Communities of Interest

The Commission discussed whether there was scope for them to infer a definition of 'Communities of Interest' based upon an interpretation of the language used in the Design Policy.

Action: Administration will create a Google Doc for Commission members to suggest how 'Communities of Interest' could be defined in a pragmatic manner

Major Roadways

Discussion regarding the high degree of influence major roadways have on the lives of residents. The Commission determined that future mapping concepts should not 'isolate' neighbourhoods with a close proximity to major roadways (Yellowhead, Henday, Whitemud)

Action:

Administration will produce mapping concept(s) that features a 'downtown' ward dissected by the river and creates more populous wards on the northside **Assigned to C. Heywood/A.Young**

Design Policy	Decision
Tabled	

Online Engagement Tool	Decision
Tabled	

Round table	Information
Next meeting to occur week of December 16th	
Administration will develop a document that outlines the items that require the Commission's approval prior to the start of PE Drop-in sessions	

Adjournment: 1:34pm