

City of Edmonton: Ward Boundary Commission

Minutes (Draft)

September 30, 2019 | 5:30pm - 7:30pm | Boardroom, Office of the City Clerk, City Hall

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

Administration: C. Heywood (Recorder), I. MacLean, N. Jacobsen

Guests: M. DeBruijn, Emerge Solutions

Regrets: None

Call to Order: 5:30pm

Agenda Review & Approval of Minutes	Decision
Moved: By M. Pungur-Buick to adopt the meeting Agenda	Carried
Moved: By L. Bjork to approve the Minutes from the September 16, 2019 meeting	Carried

Governance: City of Edmonton, Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Committees	Information
<p>Presentation by Nancy Jacobsen, City of Edmonton Law Branch, regarding the governance of City of Edmonton Agencies, Boards, Committees and Commissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ward Boundary Commission is established by the Council Committees Bylaw (18156) and governed as such. As the Commission is a temporary Committee of Council, standards regarding reporting frequency do not apply. This is captured in the Ward Boundary Commission bylaw.• Commission meetings are open to the public. In the event that votes are taken while members of the public are present, a record of how Commission members cast their votes must be retained in the meeting minutes.• The Commission can establish its own procedures and practices provided they do not contradict established and applicable governing bylaws. Similarly, the Commission can determine its own work plan, provided it aligns with the requirements of the governing bylaw and the capacity of administration. <p>Questions regarding the development of verbatim transcripts from public engagement: The City does not typically produce verbatim transcripts from public engagement sessions. Videos of Public Hearings of City Council are accessible online.</p> <p>Question regarding how challenges to provincial and federal ward boundaries could influence a municipal ward boundary review: Edmonton's Ward Boundary Review is governed by the associated municipal bylaws and, at a higher level, by the Local Authorities Election Act and the Municipal Government Act. Challenges could be made to proposed ward boundary changes within the context of those guiding documents.</p>	

Work plan development

The Commission discussed the development of a phased work plan, determined by the Commission, and actioned by administration. The Commission will determine 'phases of work' based on the development of required deliverables.

Stakeholder engagement

A stakeholder engagement and public engagement plans will be developed within the context of the City's Public Engagement Framework. The Commission will need to determine the type of information they hope to glean from each stakeholder group to support the development of an informed tactical plan.

Commission members indicated a desire to actively participate in the development of public engagement collateral and to ensure an alignment between the PE plan and the Communications plan.

Discussion regarding population forecasting and the application of Communities of Interest. The Commission expressed an interest in how growth projections are determined and how Communities of Interest are defined for the purposes of developing boundary options.

Provision of information

Information requests will be sent to the Chair prior to the circulation of the meeting agenda. These requests will be considered by the Commission and approved by Motion.

Discussion of Ward Boundary Design Policy criteria and the development of preliminary boundary concepts. The Commission expressed a desire to review boundary models that prioritised particular elements of criteria.

Moved by: J. Wesley.

That Administration produce four maps for commission consideration:

1. Utilizing City of Edmonton Ward Boundary Policy Criteria 2.01 and 2.02 as the only considerations for ward boundaries produce two maps - one showing the maps with the current state of the City, one showing the maps incorporating populations estimates projecting eight years from current state based on median population growth
2. Prioritizing City of Edmonton Ward Boundary Policy Criteria 2.01 and 2.02 with 2.03, 2.04 and 2.05 as the secondary considerations for ward boundaries
3. Prioritizing City of Edmonton Ward Boundary Policy Criteria 2.01 and 2.02 with 2.06 and 2.07 as the secondary considerations for ward boundaries

That all four maps include neighbourhood level population and ward-based populations within the maps.

That Administration provide information on how population growth estimates are developed and applied within the City.

That Administration provide information on the how Communities of Interest are incorporated into the mapping options.

Due By: - Next Commission Meeting

Carried

Assigned to: C.Heywood / I.MacLean

Terms of Reference

Decision

The Commission requested that the role of the chair be adjusted from being the author of the Commission Report to ensuring that a Report is written.

Tabled: To be discussed as first order of business at next meeting

Public Engagement

Information

Presentation by Maria DeBruijn of Emerge Solutions regarding the strategic intent of the Ward Boundary Review Public Engagement Plan.

The Commission requested that soliciting feedback regarding Ward Boundary Model proposals and the Ward Boundary Design Policy serve as dual priorities within the plan.

The Commission discussed the type of question that could be used to gather feedback on the Design Policy:

- What constitutes effective representation?
- Are there groups who feel under-represented by the current Ward Boundary construct?

Policy and Maps will be dual components of public engagement

The Commission requested the development of a draft Public Engagement Plan to be distributed for review by members prior to the next meeting.

The Commission discussed the need to ensure that the Stakeholder Engagement Plan aligns with the Public Engagement Plan, and that the plans are adjusted accordingly throughout the engagement process.

Round table

Information

The Commission discussed whether longer meetings are required

Adjournment

7:47pm