

## City of Edmonton: Ward Boundary Commission

### Minutes

February 26, 2020 | 3:30pm - 6pm | 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,

**Administration:** A. Loxterkamp (*Recorder*), I. MacLean

**Regrets:** C. Heywood, K. So

**Guests:** M. DeBruijn, Emerge Solutions

**Call to Order: 3:32pm**

Agenda Review & Approval of Minutes	Decision
<b>Moved:</b> By A. Sinclair to adopt the meeting Agenda	<b>Carried</b>
<b>Moved:</b> By S. Raitz to approve the Minutes from the January 29, 2020 meeting, with the following amendments:  That the votes by Committee members for the following decisions be noted:  <b>November 5, 2019</b> decision to present an interim report to the Executive Committee of City Council <b>Moved:</b> by K. So to adopt the Phased Work Plan In favour: J. Wesley ( <i>Chair</i> ), S. Lee ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ), L.Bjork, M. Pungur Buick, S. Raitz, K. So Absent: A. Sinclair	<b>Carried</b>
<b>January 29, 2020</b> <b>Moved:</b> By A. Sinclair that the Commission rescind their decision of November 5th to present an interim report to the Executive Committee of City Council In favour: J. Wesley ( <i>Chair</i> ), A. Sinclair, M. Pungur Buick, S. Raitz, Opposed: S. Lee ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ) Abstained: K. So Absent: L. Bjork	<b>Carried</b>

Public Engagement	Information
<b>Summary Review   Phase 2   Residents</b> The Commission received a presentation of the draft Summary Report produced by Emerge Solutions.  The following additions and revisions were requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Information regarding the level of participation in engagement activities when compared to the city's total population and the number of eligible electors</li></ul>	

- Visual representation on levels of participation in engagement activities, per ward
- Information regarding levels of public participation in Ward Boundary reviews conducted by Commission in other Canadian municipalities and in Edmonton

**Assigned to C. Heywood**

### **Summary Review | Phase 1 | Stakeholders**

The Commission received a presentation of the draft summary report produced by Administration.

The Commission requested the following amendments:

- An addition to the reference indicating that a response had not been received to the consultation extended to the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
- Consistency in the formatting regarding references to the *Ward Boundary Commission* bylaw

**Assigned to C. Heywood**

The Commission requested the definition used by Administration to determine a 'neighbourhood'.

**Assigned to C. Heywood**

Design Policy	Decision
<p>The Commission discussed a number of aspects of the Design Policy, based on the elevated discussion points and questions developed by Administration and approved by the Commission Chair.</p>	
<p><b>Effective Representation</b></p>	
<p>The Commission agreed to refer to Supreme Court reference as guideline in the absence of provincial legislation.</p>	
<p>The Commission determined that effective representation requires that boundaries are drawn with a balance of individual (one person one vote) and group (community of interest) concerns in mind.</p>	
<p><b>Criteria Structure</b></p>	
<p>The Commission agreed that recommendations to revise the policy should focus on both elements of effective representation (i.e., individual and group).</p>	
<p>The Commission discussed recommending policy amendments that reference Community Leagues, School Catchment Areas, and Business Revitalization Zones as examples of Communities of Interest.</p>	
<p><b>Variance Thresholds</b></p>	
<p>The Commission discussed the existing variance threshold that allows for ward populations within 25% of the quotient.</p>	
<p>The Commission discussed a recommendation that would reduce these thresholds to between 10% and 20% while mandating more frequent boundary reviews (e.g., every 10 years).</p>	
<p>The Commission agreed that any projected populations in excess of the current threshold would be identified in their Report to Council.</p>	
<p>The Commission requested:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A representation of population variances, per ward, in each mapping concept for 2019 and 2030</li> <li>- A review of previous Administrative corrections to ward boundaries</li> </ul>	

**Assigned to C.Heywood**

**Mapping Concepts**

**Decision**

The Commission reviewed the population projections, applied by Administration to both mapping concepts.

The Commission discussed the extent to which natural boundaries influence the development of Communities of Interest.

The Commission indicated their preference for the composition of boundaries on the northside of the river, as captured in Option 2. This includes Ward G.

The Commission agreed to explore north:south boundary lines south of the river to allow for more equitable distribution of growth among those wards.

The Commission requested:

- An amended version of Option 2 where Wards J and L are divided by 50th street on a north:south orientation
- A list of Community Leagues in developing areas in the south that encompass multiple neighbourhoods

**Assigned to C.Heywood**

**Administration Update**

**Decision**

**Development Milestones**

The Commission reviewed a draft Report development timeline produced by Administration. The proposed milestones were approved by the Commission with the following change:

- Draft Policy recommendations to be shared with the Commission on March 13.

The Commission indicated that they would like to review Administration's covering Report to Council prior to its submission.

**Update to Council**

The Commission reviewed a summary of the draft update to City Council, developed by Administration.

The Commission indicated that they would like to review the draft message prior to distribution to members of Council.

**Assigned to C.Heywood**

**Meeting Review**

**Information**

The Commission is pleased with the set-up of the workplan moving forward and confident the timelines are manageable.

**Adjournment: 6:03pm**