



**City of  
Evanston™  
MINUTES**  
**Redistricting Committee**  
**Tuesday, August 23, 2022 @ 7:00 PM**  
**(Virtual)**

**COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT** Chair Jonathan Nieuwsma  
Councilmember Melissa Wynne  
Councilmember Devon Reid  
Councilmember Bobby Burns

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councilmember Claire Kelly

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:** N/A

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Luke Stowe, Paralegal Kina Robinson

**(I) CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**  
Meeting called to order by Chair Nieuwsma at approximately 7:05 pm

**(II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
P1. Approval of minutes of the June 28th meeting

Moved by Councilmember Wynne  
Seconded by Councilmember Burns

**Ayes:** Chair Jonathan Nieuwsma, Councilmember Melissa Wynne, Councilmember Devon Reid, Councilmember Bobby Burns

**Carried 4-0 on a recorded vote**

**(III) PUBLIC COMMENT**  
No separate public comment; public participation was encouraged during committee discussion.

**(V) ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A) Ward 2

- Chair Nieuwsma shared demographics/population data and led discussion of factors to consider when redistricting Ward 2
- Relative to Ward 1 (downtown):
  - Councilmember Wynne recommended that downtown Evanston continue to be divided among three wards. If not 1,2, and 4 as is the case currently, then perhaps 1,4 and 5. Councilmember Burns (5) would be comfortable with this but isn't advocating for it. Councilmember Reid suggested that dividing amount four wards (1,2,4 and 5) also be considered.
- Relative to Ward 4:
  - General agreement that it would make sense to clean up the border between Ward 2 and 4.
  - Robert Crown is in Ward 4 for historical reasons; might make sense to transfer that to Ward 2 since most of the Crown neighbors are Ward 2.
- Relative to Ward 5:
  - Community member suggested that portion of Ward 2 north of Church should be shifted to Ward 5. Supported by Councilmember Burns.
- Relative to Ward 9:
  - General agreement that at least some of the portion of Ward 2 south Main Street might be transferred to Ward 9.
- Additional community member input:
  - Consider the Research Park
  - Ward 2 should continue to have a portion of downtown
  - Ward 2 should have some commercial districts/shopping center
  - Also consider school boundaries, TIF boundaries.
- Also noted: since the Ward 2 council seat is currently vacant, the Redistricting Committee will consider re-addressing Ward 2 at a future date once the vacancy has been filled.

B) Ward 4

- Chair Nieuwsma shared demographics/population data and led discussion of factors to consider when redistricting Ward 4.
- Relative to Ward 1 (downtown):
  - Some discussion about the portion of Ward 4 north of Davis; possibly "trading" that block with Ward 1 for the block between Benson and Sherman. Consensus was that this would be acceptable.
  - Should Fountain Square continue to be split between Wards 1 and 4? Consensus was that this is acceptable but ok to change if needed.
- Relative to Ward 2: See above
- Relative to Ward 3:
  - Consensus that Ward 3 will lose the "panhandle" north of Dempster to Ward 1 and/or or Ward 4
  - Might make sense for the area west of Chicago/north of Dempster to move to Ward 4—the tracks are a more "permeable" barrier there than they are further south.

- Relative to Ward 9:
    - Councilmember Nieuwsma, supported by Councilmember Wynne, expressed the desire to retain the Main Street businesses in Ward 4.
    - The residences on Washington Street might make sense to shift to Ward 9.
  - Additional discussion:
    - With regards to forthcoming Vogue project and other planned or potential developments regardless of ward: we're obligated to use the 2020 census figures in balancing the numbers can will keep new developments in mind with the idea of ideally ensuring the new map will remain viable after the 2030 census.
- C) December Meeting Date
- The meeting that would have been scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of December (12/27), will be instead be scheduled for Tuesday January 10, 2023. The committee will also meet as planned on January 24, 2023.

**(VIII) ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned approximately 8:35 pm.