



City of
Evanston™
MINUTES

Redistricting Committee

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

(Hybrid)

Morton Civic Center, Glacier Conference Room, Room 2404

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
PRESENT:**

Chair Jonathan Nieuwsma
Councilmember Melissa Wynne
Councilmember Devon Reid (virtual)
Councilmember Bobby Burns (virtual)

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
ABSENT:**

STAFF PRESENT:

Assistant City Attorney, Brian George
GIS Analyst, Mark Varner
Paralegal, Kina Robinson

(I) CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Nieuwsma called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 pm

(II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of the meeting minutes from March 28th, 2023
Councilmember Wynne moved to approve the minutes; Councilmember Reid seconded the approval. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

[Redistricting Committee Minutes 3.28.23](#)

(III) PUBLIC COMMENT

In person comments:

- Calvin Bradford questioned the need to redistrict and requested that the Sherman Plaza building be kept in Ward 1.
- Lester Ascher requested that the Sherman Plaza building be kept in Ward 1.
- Valy Lev requested that the Sherman Plaza building be kept in Ward 1.
- Meleika Gardner questioned the Committee's previous decision to pursue a light-touch approach and stated that a blank-page approach would have been better from a racial equity perspective.
- Percy Berger questioned the absence of community members on the Committee

Zoom Comments:

- Tina Paden questioned the process and stated a desire to have a large town hall meeting.
- Fred Tanenbaum requested that the Sherman Plaza building be kept in Ward 1.
- Marge Gordon requested that the Sherman Plaza building be kept in Ward 1.
- Stuart Green requested that the Sherman Plaza building be kept in Ward 1.
- Carl Klein pointed out that downtown Evanston is significantly more residential than it was since the last map was draw in 2003.

(IV) ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. Review of comments received online
- Chair Nieuwsma summarized 35 comments that had been received on the online form (attached.)
- B. Discussion of proposed map
- Starting point for the discussion was the proposed map approved by the Committee on March 28 (Option A), with 3.35% total deviation and 4,592 impacted residents.
 - With the assistance of GIS staff Mark Varner, the committee considered several changes to the map:
 - i. Keeping the Sherman Plaza block in Ward 1 and the Chase Bank/Whole Foods block in Ward 4 with no further changes would result in total deviation of 9.51%, too high for consideration.
 - ii. As above and also moving the blocks surrounded by Lake/Greenwood/Sherman/Chicago results in a total deviation of 3.04% with 3,672 residents impacted—better numbers than Option A less compact.
 - iii. Putting both the Sherman Plaza block and the Chase Bank/Whole Foods block into Ward 1, while moving the Dempster/Lake/Sherman/Judson blocks (the previous Ward 3 “panhandle”) to Ward 4 results in total deviation of 3.47% with 4,241 impacted residents. This map would keep the entire Main Dempster Mile SSA under wards 3 and 4.
 - iv. As above, but keeping the Ashland/Wesley/Davis/Church block in Ward 2 rather than moving it to Ward 4 results in 2.57% total deviation and 4,175 impacted residents. This map is attached as Option B.
 - v. The Committee looked at the Noyes Street business district and whether it would be possible to have both sides of the street in one ward. Given the configuration of the census blocks this proved to be impossible without triggering significant changes elsewhere on the map.
 - vi. CM Wynne/Burns moved/seconded that the committee release Option B for another round of public engagement. The motion passed unanimously.
 - vii. The Committee confirmed the intention to make any final changes at the next Committee meeting (May 23), and approve a final map at that time for formal recommendation to City Council with the expectation that the Council will consider the issue at a June meeting.

(V) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.