

City of Midway, Florida Redistricting Project

September 25, 2008

7:00 p.m.

The first Redistricting Project Steering Committee for the City of Midway, Florida was held on Thursday, September 25, 2008, 7:00p.m. at City Hall. The session was started with an opening by Councilwoman Ella Barber and Linda Dilworth of KMR Consultants.

All attendees were welcomed, and Linda Dilworth introduced the KMR Team: Linda Dilworth, Erika Brown, Leslie Steele, Lance DeHaven-Smith and Curtis Richardson. Councilwoman Ella Barber introduced the City of Midway Steering Committee participants: Dr. Anthony Arnold, Roosevelt Morris, Shawana Lamb and Linda Morris.

Overview of the Redistricting Process

Lance DeHaven-Smith presented an overview of the redistricting process with a Power Point Presentation.

Census Data Review

- 50% of the voters were registered within the last 5 years which indicates significant growth
- Significantly more women registered
- Predominantly Black
- Predominantly Democrat
- Age Breakdown

Open Discussion of Census Data Review

- Census data seems too low compared to the number of people registered to vote
- Courts require redistricting based on population growth so census data needs to be updated by Certificate of Occupancies from building department, electric hookup data, etc.

Comments and Questions

- Discussed the purpose of redistricting
- Discussed precinct map
- Established that the map provided by KMR is accurate
- Discussed City Ordinance 2006-15 "Stop Gap"
- 375 voted in the last municipal election
- DeHaven-Smith indicated the need for a precinct district map
- Questions were raised regarding redistricting of undeveloped/uninhabited areas that may be developed in the future. It was determined that undeveloped areas would be in a district though there may be an unequal distribution if a new area is developed this however will be resolved by redistricting after future census reports

DeHaven-Smith will update census data.

DeHaven-Smith requested a series of meeting to review progress and obtain feedback.

Project Timelines

Linda Dilworth presented the project deliverables and timeline as outlined below. The importance of the interviews with Council members was stressed and an interview date was discussed.

Deliverable	Progress Status	Projected Completion Date
1. KMR's Redistricting Project Team Assembled	Completed	August 21, 2008
2. Prepare Redistricting Project Work Plan	Completed	August 28, 2008
3. Prepare and attend up to four (4) workshop sessions with members of the redistricting steering committee and key stakeholders and make appearances before City Council	Request: 1 st Workshop in 2 – 3 weeks (Wed. – Sat) 2 nd Workshop after Deliverable 6 completed 3 rd Workshop conducted with Deliverable 9 4 th Workshop conducted with Deliverable 12	September 18 – November 15, 2008
4. Conduct redistricting interviews with City Council members and group interviews with interested citizens and stakeholders	Request: All day Saturday interviews within 2 – 3	September 27, 2008

Deliverable	Progress Status	Projected Completion Date
	weeks	
5. Procure and utilize a State of Florida recognized and proven software application for redistricting purposes	Completed	September 2, 2008
6. Obtain Midway voting pattern and socioeconomic data and perform redistricting analysis, calculations and considerations	Precinct Map Obtained Voter Registration Data Obtained	October 15, 2008
7. Plan and conduct redistricting community outreach and education activities	Work Plan Completed	On-Going
8. Provide City of Midway community redistricting updates on the City's website	Work Plan Completed	On-Going
9. Prepare and conduct a scenarios mapping public hearing for Midway officials, staff, citizens, businesses and interested persons		October 31, 2008
10. Develop process and provide for receipt of public map submissions		October 31, 2008
11. Develop preliminary redistricting plan options		November 15, 2008
12. Plan and conduct a post-map public hearing for Midway officials, staff, citizens, businesses and interested persons		November 15, 2008
13. Finalize City of Midway Redistricting Plan		November 18, 2008
14. File Redistricting Plan with City Clerk and Gadsden County Supervisor of Elections		November 21, 2008

Redistricting Project Community Outreach and Education

Leslie Steele presented the Community Outreach efforts.

Community Involvement:

Recognizing that community involvement is key to a successful redistricting effort, the KMR staff recommends a combination of several approaches to effectively inform and solicit input from the community. This will help staff evaluate various proposals received against legal requirements, use community input to understand communities-of-interest as well as concerns and issues that are important to the community, and utilize that information to provide redistricting plans and concepts to your Board. The approaches being recommended are as follows:

1. Prepare Citizens' Kits for wide distribution - at the community centers, City Hall, etc. Citizens' Kits will consist of items such as a short, simple

write-up of the law regarding redistricting, what it is, why we do it, what it means to us as a community, what criteria are used, definitions, an explanation of the process, county maps, and a schedule of various redistricting activities, including Board hearing and community "town hall" meeting dates.

2. Prepare a web-page on the City based web-site to keep community informed of upcoming events, and a list of people that can be contacted for further information.

3. Prepare radio/television public service announcements, newspaper ads, video, announcing redistricting activities.

4. Send letters to community groups, such as League of Women Voters, The Chamber of Commerce, School Districts (public and private), Parks and Recreation Department and other special districts, homeowners' associations, etc, advising them of activities and how they can be involved in the process.

5. Schedule a series of "town hall" meetings conducted by staff to inform the community, answer questions, and get feedback and ideas from the community on what is important to them in the redistricting process.

Naturally, Board members may want to attend some of these meetings if available. Staff recommends 2-4 evening meetings in November (1 in each City Hall, East Gadsden High School and Eugene Lamb Community Center)

Our project team evaluated the various ways that we can effectively involve the community and believe that the combined approach outlined above provides maximum results. The recommended "town hall" meetings will provide open forums for individuals and groups to express their ideas, concerns, and suggestions, as well as opportunities to receive assistance.

Timeline:

October:

Prepare ads, PSA's, video; Develop web page; Schedule Town-Hall Meetings

Mid-October:

Distribute Citizens' Kits to Redistricting Board as an Administrative Item on Board agenda, prior to being distributed to the public.

November:

Public Awareness Month: run ads, PSA's, newspaper articles, send mailers to specified organizations, distribute citizens' kits.

TBD:

Board Hearing to provide update of Redistricting efforts.

November:

Conduct 2-4 town hall meetings.

TBD:

Board Hearing to report results of town hall meetings to the Board and receive Board direction as appropriate.

Next Meeting Date and Time

Tentatively Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 7:00p.m.

Adjournment

8:23p.m.