

**City of Carpinteria  
Ad Hoc District Elections Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting**

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Acting City Clerk Barrett noted for the record that this meeting would be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20 and Santa Barbara County Health Officer's Order in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and provided the protocols by which the public would be participating and stated that members of the Committee, staff and any presenters would be participating by video conference.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Councilmember Alarcon called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Committee Members present: Councilmember Natalia Alarcon  
Vice Mayor Al Clark

Staff members present: Dave Durlinger, City Manager  
Olivia Uribe Mutal, Program Manager  
Brian C. Barrett, Acting City Clerk

Others present: Chris Chaffee with Redistricting Partners  
Fred Shaw  
Gail Marshall

2. Public Comment

Acting City Clerk Barrett noted that written public comment from Russell Ruiz was received and distributed to the Committee.

3. Approval of meeting minutes of July 13, 2021.

In response to information in the draft meeting minutes indicating the number of districts and timing of related elections, Vice Mayor Clark asked for clarification on the timing of the Council deciding which districts are coming up in the November 2022 election.

Mr. Chaffee responded that the number of districts coming up depends on the number of current Councilmembers that are up for re-election in 2022 and that at the last hearing on the final district map, the Council could pass the map with a numbering scheme and order those districts into an election order.

Councilmember Alarcon opened up public comment. Mr. Shaw asked how the situation would be handled when two Council seats are up at the same time and both Councilmembers are in the same district.

Mr. Chaffee replied that if two serving Councilmembers are drawn in the same district, the majority of the Council can decide what order that district would come up in, and there could be two current Councilmembers in 2022 or 2024 running against each other or one could choose to retire or move into one of the new districts.

Motion by Vice Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilmember Alarcon, to approve the meeting minutes of July 13, 2021, with no changes. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Alarcon and Vice Mayor Clark  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss website updates.

Mr. Chaffee demonstrated how to draw a community of interest in DistrictR. He noted that right now DistrictR is using the 2019 American Community Survey data (estimated populations) and once a final dataset from the statewide database is available, Redistricting Partners will convert it to the 2020 census populations and the public can begin to draw districts on the map. Mr. Chaffee also showed the paper map version, or placemat. He described neighborhood examples drawn on the map as being built off currently available census block data, and that the census block data must be used as the lowest level of geographic data in regards to population.

Vice Mayor Clark asked about redrawing neighborhoods when the line is drawn in the middle of the street and neighbors on either side of the street are in different neighborhoods. Mr. Chaffee responded that this could be worked out as the process moves forward.

Vice Mayor Clark inquired if it were more important to recognize the census districts or go for equity in terms of population. Mr. Chaffee replied that there is leeway when balancing districts. There can be a total deviation of 10% between the largest and smallest district which allows keeping communities of interest whole.

City Manager Durlinger asked for clarification as to whether or not a District could be drawn that split a census block. Mr. Chaffee responded that under the Fair Maps Act, the City has to follow census geographies and can't break a census block.

Program Manager Uribe Mutal asked if school boundaries or land use maps could be overlaid in relation to the neighborhoods. Mr. Chaffee indicated that they could be added to DistrictR; however, he stated that in Redistricting's experience, streets and neighborhoods are what 95% of the population requests on paper maps. He noted that once final census data is obtained, the placemats will be updated with population numbers in delineated areas/squares to assist members of the public in drawing numerically equal districts. He further stated that all maps submitted either through DistrictR or paper will be put up on the website.

Program Manager Uribe Mutal mentioned that the Districting website will be ready to go live by September 3<sup>rd</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Alarcon asked if DistrictR and paper maps could be made available in Spanish. Mr. Chaffee responded that DistrictR is currently available only in English, but is being converted into Spanish and affirmed that paper maps would be created in Spanish.

Councilmember Alarcon opened public comment. Ms. Marshall asked when final census data will be available. Mr. Chaffee replied that the more detailed census data set will be available by September 20<sup>th</sup>.

5. Discuss and recommend a schedule of public community workshops and timeline and outline the format of the first meeting

Program Manager Uribe Mutal reported that the first workshop would be the week of September 20<sup>th</sup>, which would allow the website two weeks to be live and announce the advertising of the first workshop. She described the goals of the workshop would be to explain the process of district elections, give an overview of the process and timelines, present the tools and website, and focus on explaining communities of interest and getting feedback on communities of interest. She noted advertising would include the Coastal View News, the Current (City's online newsletter), social media, flyers, and different businesses in town. Lastly, long-term advertising would include videos for the first workshop or future workshops, and postcard/mailed with website information. She recommended holding a hybrid workshop outdoors, but noted that the workshop has to be video recorded.

Mr. Chaffee described an updated timeline where the first workshop would occur in September, followed by the second workshop in October, and mapping hearings in January and February with the finalizing of a map in March.

The Committee agreed to hold multiple workshops such as in the morning, evening, and weekend and was on board with the plan Program Manager Uribe Mutal outlined.

Councilmember Alarcon opened public comment. Ms. Marshall identified it was important to get the information out to the communities of interest.

Program Manager Uribe Mutal noted that Redistricting Partners' memo regarding the outreach plan included interested organizations engaging within Carpinteria and all media outlets. City Manager Durflinger suggested mailing out manilla envelopes with placemat and background information in English/Spanish about the Districting process. Program Manager Uribe Mutal suggested engaging students and thereby their parents in this process. Councilmember Alarcon suggested radio advertising and text messaging.

6. Scheduling of next meeting.

The Committee set the next Committee meeting on September 8, 2021 at 4 pm.

7. Adjournment.

Councilmember Alarcon adjourned the meeting at 4:57 pm.

  
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Brian C. Barrett, Acting City Clerk