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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Ad Hoc Rules Committee Minutes
March 24, 2021**

The Ad Hoc Rules Committee of the DeKalb County Board met virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those Members present were Mr. Scott Campbell, Mr. Steve Faivre, Mrs. Kathy Lampkins, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Mr. Craig Roman, Ms. Suzanne Willis, and Chairman John Frieders. Mr. Tim Bagby was absent at the time of roll call. A quorum was established with seven Members present and one absent.

Others present via Zoom included Brian Gregory, Derek Hiland, Sheila Santos, Greg Millburg, Roy Plote, Larry West, and Karen Cribben.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Faivre and seconded by Mr. Roman to approve the agenda as presented. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Campbell, Mr. Faivre, Mrs. Lampkins, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Roman, Ms. Willis, and Chairman Frieders. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Tim Bagby arrived.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COUNTY BOARD REDISTRICTING

DeKalb County IMO/GIS Director Sheila Santos joined the Committee to bring some potential amendments to Section 1-3 - Redistricting of the DeKalb County Code. Ms. Santos shared that the Census Bureau has officially announced a delayed release in the State's redistricting data. Previously the data was to be released in April and now it is schedule to be released by September 30th. The data includes the tabular data, which contains the population numbers that the County needs for redistricting.

IMO/GIS has received geographic layers from the Census Bureau but not any population data. Those are basic polygons of the census tracks and blocks. That will help a bit to prepare in advance for when they receive the tabular population data. They will be able to manipulate that data a little bit now to get it into their software and get it ready to go for County Board Redistricting. Before they turn the data over to the three designated individuals who draw the Fair Maps, IMO/GIS is still going to have prep work to do after they receive the tabular data, but it won't be as much since they were able to receive some of that geographic data in advance.

Normally the County Board would be adopting new County Board Districts by July and now that is not going to be able to happen. Ms. Santos shared with the Committee that she will be keeping a close eye on what the State does because the statute actually states that the Board Districts have to be adopted by July. That poses a problem, because the County won't even have the data in

order to redistrict by July. The County will have to see what the State does and what guidance they will give in the coming months.

One issue that Ms. Santos did want to bring to the Committee's attention is in regards to the County Code. A few years ago (2014), a Fair Map Ordinance was adopted and was made part of the County Code (Sec. 1-3). That Ordinance set parameters that need to be met for redistricting. In those parameters, in an effort to make populations as equal as possible among the districts, there are certain criteria that is outlined.

Ms. Santos took those new parameters that are set in the Fair Map Ordinance and tested them using the 2010 contender maps. Unfortunately, every single map failed so they would not have met the County Code. Ms. Santos explained that she recalls the Ordinance was based on one from Iowa and although she thinks the concept is good, their populations figures were probably higher and easier to reach the goals as stated.

Ms. Santos brought the following amendment to the Committee for their consideration. The amendments were meant to alter just a few words but maintain the concept of what the original Ordinance was trying to achieve.

5. ~~In no case shall~~ The quotient, obtained by dividing the total of the absolute values of the deviations of all district populations from the applicable ideal district population (numerator) by the number of districts (denominator) established, shall not exceed three percent of the applicable ideal district population, except as necessary to achieve one of the other standards enumerated in Section 1-3. If the quotient exceeds three percent, it should be as close to the ideal quotient as possible.
6. ~~No~~ County Board districts shall not have a population which exceeds that of any other County Board district by more than eight percent, except as necessary to achieve one of the other standards enumerated in Section 1-3. If the population variance exceeds eight percent, it should be as close to the ideal population variance as possible.
7. ~~No~~ County Board districts shall not have a population which varies by more than five percent from the applicable ideal district population, except as necessary to achieve one of the other standards enumerated in Section 1-3. If the ideal district population exceeds five percent, it should be as close to the ideal district population as possible.

The Committee reviewed the proposed language and the County Code Section in total.

Sections 1.3.5, 1.3.6 and 1.3.7: These sections were the initial focus of the discussion, so as to allow for flexibility in the event the stated "ideals" cannot be met. The committee had consensus on these but requested that the State's Attorney's Office review the language.

Sections 1.3.2 and 1.3.4 within the full Code: These sections were discussed with some concern that the "shall" wording could be seen as a requirement and supersede the other criteria. Other members wanted to make certain they do not inadvertently erode the rules as a clear effort was made in ensuring a fair map in the redistricting process. The blue wording are where the words "shall" and "possible" were suggested to be replaced with "may" and "practical" in section 1.3.2, and "shall" replaced with "should" in 1.3.4.

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2. County Board districts shall (should shall be replaced by may?) divide townships or municipalities only when necessary to conform to the population requirement of paragraph (1) of this section. To the extent possible (replace possible with practical?), district boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of townships and municipalities. The number of townships and municipalities divided among more than one district shall be as few as possible. When there is a choice between dividing townships and/or municipalities, the more populous shall be divided before the less populous.
3. No County Board district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent Board member, or other person or group, or for the purpose of augmenting or diluting the voting strength of a language or racial minority group. In establishing districts, no use shall be made of any of the following data:
 - a. Addresses of incumbent County Board members;
 - b. Political affiliations of registered voters;
 - c. Previous election results;
 - d. Demographic information, other than population, except as required by the Constitutions and the laws of the United States and the State of Illinois.
4. County Board districts shall be created in such a manner so that no precinct shall (replace shall with should?) be divided between two or more districts, insofar as is practicable.

After discussions, Mr. Faivre suggested that the suggested wording be forwarded onto the State's Attorney's Office so they can weigh-in on the appropriate legal approach. Chairman Frieders agreed and shared the Committee would then set another meeting date to review the outcome prior to forwarding any amendments onto the full County Board.

Mr. Faivre also expressed that at the next Ad Hoc Meeting he would like Ms. Santos to run a report on what they currently have from the 2010 maps and how it meets each one of the criteria and share that with them. That way the Committee can get an idea of what they are going to be seeing when they look at the three new maps later this year.

The Committee planned their next meeting to be on Thursday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bagby moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Mrs. Lampkins seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Faivre, Mrs. Lampkins, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Roman, Ms. Willis, and Chairman Frieders. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman John Frieders

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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