

FIRST EIGHT COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

July 21-23, 2020

July 21, 2020

Call to order by Amanda Saxton, Counsel to the First Eight Commissioners, at 9:30 a.m.

Roll call was taken and all members were present: Commissioner Ahmad, Commissioner Andersen, Commissioner Fornaciari, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Le Mons (via Zoom), Commissioner Sadhwani (via Zoom), Commissioner Taylor (via Zoom), and Commissioner Turner (via Zoom),.

Elaine M. Howle, California State Auditor, delivered opening remarks and administered the Oath of Office to the First Eight Commissioners.

Commissioners each introduced themselves and gave individual opening remarks.

Ms. Saxton presented the Counsel's report. Ms. Saxton provided instructions for public comment, and opened the meeting up to public comment.

Commissioner Ahmad nominated Commissioner Andersen to serve as temporary chair; this nomination was seconded by Commissioner Fornaciari. The commissioners unanimously elected Commissioner Andersen as temporary chair. Commissioner Sadhwani made a motion to nominate Commissioner Turner as temporary vice-chair, which was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. The commissioners unanimously elected Commissioner Turner as temporary vice-chair.

The Commission recessed from 10:35 a.m. to 10:48 a.m..

There was discussion amongst the commissioners about adopting the Robert's Rules for small meetings with modifications. Commissioner Le Mons made a motion to adopt Robert's Rules for small meetings with modifications, which was seconded by Commissioner Fornaciari. The commissioners unanimously adopted Robert's Rules for small meetings with modifications.

Temporary Chair Andersen opened up a discussion of ground rules the commissioners should observe. Commissioners discussed a time limit for public comments, whether people making a public comment can pool their time with others, and if a public commenter could rejoin the queue. Commissioners noted that public comments may also be submitted in written form. There was a request for public comment. Temporary Chair Andersen made a motion to propose the ground rules she had enumerated, including a 2-minute limit on public comments with the ability to rejoin the queue. Commissioner Fornaciari seconded the motion, and the commissioners unanimously adopted the ground rules.

Commissioners recessed from 11:35 a.m. to 11:42 a.m.



Temporary Chair Andersen announced agenda item 6. Commissioners discussed procedures for proposing and developing the slate for the final six commissioners. Commissioners discussed bringing proposals for a slate, finding commonality between proposals; bringing proposals for a slate as a starting place for a discussion; the duty and spirit of cooperation. In addition to bringing proposals for a slate, commissioners discussed bringing ideas for alternates, similar to the Applicant Review Panel's methods for reducing the pool of applicants. Commissioners discussed the value of gaining an understanding of what they each bring to the commission, in addition to understanding what the remaining applicants can bring. Commissioner Ahmad urged commissioners to also be mindful of the requirements of the Voters First Act.

The Commission received four comments telephonically.

Commissioner Le Mons suggested that the commissioners go on the record to make it clear that they take the absence of Latinx members on the commission very seriously. Each of the commissioners spoke on this issue and expressed their agreement.

The Commission received an additional public comment telephonically.

Commissioners recessed for lunch at 1:04 p.m. .

At 1:45 p.m. the meeting was reconvened and received training on the Bagley-Keene Public Meeting Act, from Christopher Dawson, Senior Staff Counsel, California State Auditor's Office.

Commissioners viewed the training video, "California's Diverse Demographics and Geography," presented by Eric McGhee of the Public Policy Institute of California.

Commissioners recessed at 3:14 p.m. until 3:29 p.m..

Commissioners viewed the training video, "Commissioner Experience," presented by former Citizens Redistricting Commissioner Angelo Ancheta.

At 4:53 p.m. the meeting was recessed until 9:30 a.m. the following day.

July 22, 2020

Temporary Chair Andersen reconvened the meeting at 9:32 a.m., observing that each commissioner was present, and requested that each Commissioner share how to pronounce his/her last name.

Commissioners viewed the training video, "Redistricting 101," presented by Professor Justin Levitt, Loyola Law School.

The meeting was recessed from 10:44 a.m. to 10:52 a.m.

When commissioners returned from break, Commissioner Le Mons requested that conversations be held with the full commission, and not among a limited group during breaks. Commissioner Le Mons had



overheard a discussion occurring during the break, as had Commissioner Fornaciari. Commissioners agreed that discussions should be held with the full commission.

The “Redistricting 1010” training video was resumed. At 12:15 p.m. Professor Levitt joined the meeting via Zoom to provide training in person to augment parts of the training that did not have audio. Professor Levitt also discussed the challenges with the Census, the potential changing timeline for the Census, and the California Supreme Court’s agreement to extend the deadline for the Citizen Redistricting Commission’s maps. Professor Levitt made himself available for questions.

The Commission received an additional public comment, and the Commission recessed for lunch from 1:22pm to 2:02 p.m.

The meeting resumed, and the commissioners viewed a training video presented by former commissioner Andre Parvenu, “Impartiality and Working with Others.” At 2:45 p.m. the Parvenu training lost audio and was paused; Commissioner Andersen requested public comment.

Commissioner Andersen requested that she and fellow commissioners plan on doing a reflection on the training, what they have learned, and how they can apply what they have learned in their selection process.

There was a public comment from the trainer, Andre Parvenu, in which he offered additional guidance on forming relationships with fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Kennedy asked Ms. Saxton if commissioners could attend local redistricting commission meetings. Ms. Saxton replied that she would consider the question but noted that at this meeting the commission could only contemplate selection of the final six commissioners. Ms. Saxton also noted that the commissioners would have different legal counsel when they had the full 14 member Commission.

There was discussion amongst the commissioners about Commissioner Andersen’s request for commissioners to prepare a reflection to share with the Commission about the training. Commissioner Le Mons noted that while it could be a valuable activity, the proposed activity should be a matter of discussion for the commissioners, not a directive from the temporary chair. Ms. Saxton reminded commissioners that they must not stray from the agenda.

The meeting recessed at 3:17 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. the following day.

July 23, 2020

At 9:32 a.m. Temporary Chair Andersen reconvened the meeting and roll call was taken. All members were present: Commissioner Ahmad (via Zoom), Temporary Chair Andersen, Commissioner Fornaciari (via Zoom), Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Le Mons (via Zoom), Commissioner Sadhwani (via Zoom), Commissioner Taylor (via Zoom), and Temporary Vice-Chair Turner (via Zoom).



Ms. Saxton revisited the prior day's discussion and noted that at this time the commission could not discuss slate strategies. She also noted that no line-drawers were invited to speak because this could infringe on the RFP process.

The commissioners began viewing a training video, "Census Data and the Process of Map-Drawing," presented by Karin MacDonald and Jaime Clark of the Statewide Database, UC Berkeley School of Law.

At 10:59 a.m. the meeting recessed until 11:15 a.m., after which the training resumed.

At 11:40 a.m. training was paused to request public comment. The Commission received two public comments telephonically.

At 11:55 p.m. the Commission recessed until 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

At 1:00 p.m. the meeting was reconvened and the training video resumed and concluded at 1:54 p.m. Following the end of the video, the Commission received three public comments.

Commissioner Andersen solicited comments from commissioners, and several commissioners expressed their appreciation for the training they had received, as well as appreciation for Commissioner Andersen stepping into the role of temporary chair.

The meeting recessed from 2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

After reconvening, Temporary Chair Andersen moved to agenda item number 9, Public Comment on general matters. The commissioners received 19 public comments telephonically. Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the public comments.

At 3:26 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

