



MINUTES

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday February 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Fallbrook Regional Health District, Community Room, 138 S. Brandon Rd., Fallbrook

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Howard Salmon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Directors Howard Salmon, Barbara Mroz, Jennifer Jeffries and Kate Schwartz-Frates. Also present: Legal Counsel Blaise Jackson and staff members, Linda Bannerman, Wendy Lyon and Pam Knox. It was noted there was a Spanish translator also in attendance.

B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

C. BOARD MEMBER AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Salmon said it is the intention of the Fallbrook Regional Health District (FRHD) to move from at-large elections to zone-based elections and this is second public hearing to be scheduled. He asked Mr. Jeff Tilton of National Demographics Corporation (NDC) to first provide his presentation; thereafter, interacting with members of the audience as they made their public comments.

D. PRESENTATIONS

D1. Public Hearing – Transition to Zone-Based Elections – National Demographics Corporation
Mr. Tilton said the goal is to follow the public voting rights act and a second public hearing is required before any maps could be developed. He asked how many of the people in attendance had been to the first hearing and if anyone required Spanish translation. He explained that the Federal Voting Rights Act passed in 1965 and California passed a Voting Rights Act in 2001, going into effect in 2002. This made the requirements for filing a lawsuit much easier and there have been a flurry of lawsuits filed of late. Any government body is subject to these lawsuits and FRHD elected to make this change now as it is significantly more costly if served with a lawsuit. Time constraints are initiated with a lawsuit. He said a minimum of two public hearings are required before NDC would begin to develop 3 different maps based on input from the District. The community can also submit maps to the District for consideration by NDC.

Since a new census is upcoming in 2020, it will be necessary to go through this process again in 2021 to go into effect in 2022. He said he would anticipate minor modifications to the zones at that time. Each zone must have equal populations of humans. A ten percent variance is allowable. No racial gerrymandering is allowed. NDC will take all of the District's input into consideration. The District has five directors on its board and will have five zones with approximately 10,000 humans in each zone. In addition, the zones need to be contiguous.

Director Schwartz-Frates commented that she appreciates the color-coded map of communities with interest.

Tom Frew asked why the zones would be considered by where the current directors live, which he believes is starting with the wrong perspective. Mr. Tilton said some districts used that approach, but he did not say that was recommended.

Joe Beyer stated that the Fallbrook school districts used that approach and were met with angry residents who questioned as to why they did that.

Leticia Stamos said she had a couple of questions. She questioned the 90-day timeline. Legal counsel said certain timelines are required, one of them being that the first two public hearings must be held within 30 days of each other. There is no timeline for having the maps created. There is a requirement to seek community input, and even after the maps are drawn, if the community doesn't approve of any of them, they can submit a map for consideration. The 90-day timeline relates to entities having received a letter from an attorney that notifies them they are not in compliance with the law. Mrs. Stamos asked when the final map needs to be approved by the FRHD Board. Legal counsel said it must be in place for the 2020 election, with time allowed for recording and submittal to the Registrar of Voters which would be June of 2020. Her next comment was regarding outreach to the public, in terms of those who the legislation is designed to protect. She believes all Districts in Fallbrook have failed to effectively communicate information about this matter. She said other District's maps were created by NDC protecting current board members by each being in a separate zone. Even after public input, she feels the Districts failed to listen to the input of the Spanish speaking community (the protected class). Mr. Tilton offered to contact the President of NDC and said he would provide him with her name (and others present if desired) and provide him with contact information so that there can be further communication.

President Salmon said he appreciates the comments by Mrs. Stamos and assured all present that the FRHD Board will not ask for each member to have their own zone. The process will be objective.

Tom Frew said the school districts posted their maps in advance and the public took exception to the maps. He asked if FRHD could do it the opposite way. Legal Counsel said it is a requirement for the maps to be posted 7 days prior to the public meeting when public input is taken regarding the maps. Discussion ensued and Mr. Jackson said that there is no reason why the public cannot meet more than the 2 public hearings

required to work on providing input to the drawing of the maps. Mr. Frew said he already has maps his group of concerned citizens have developed with the assistance of demographers, academics and legal consultants. Further discussion ensued, President Salmon said he understands that Mr. Frew would like to see scheduled another session in which the maps can be further discussed, they can share their maps with FRHD and perhaps have a map drawing session.

Mr. Tilton said NDC can schedule a map drawing session with tools to assist in the process. Mrs. Stamos said she is feeling better about this process. A member of the high school board, Darlene Summers, noted they are under a timeline and doing the best they can to meet community needs and expectations in this matter. She suggested that when the maps are drawn, indicate the term of each director within a zone and when they are next up for election, not their names.

Mrs. Stamos said it is conceivable that more than one zone could have a Latino representative.

Director Jeffries said she associated herself with President Salmon's comment that the maps be started neutral and that it not be about where she lives; she would rather be anonymous. She said this is such a chance for our community and she is sorry about the stress and contention surrounding this process. It's an opportunity for the health and wellness of our constituents to do this mapping with great care and degree of rationality and mathematics and to look and see where the naturally occurring communities of interest are and map accordingly.

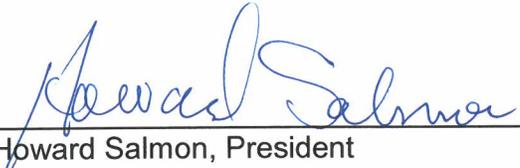
Ms. Stamos said they have been excited about this opportunity.

Fire Chief Stephen Abbott said the fire district will follow the health district in this process as other than the De Luz area, the fire district is very similar to the health district.

President Salmon said another public session will be scheduled soon.

E. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.


Howard Salmon, President


Board Secretary/Clerk