

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES REVIEW WORKSHOP MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2012**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Paul, Councilmember Caletka and Councilmember Hattan. Vice-Mayor Luis and Councilmember Starkey were absent. Also present were District Boundaries Review Board Chair John Stevens, Vice-Chair Julie Aitkin, and members Mary Carlton, Donna Evans, and Chris Love, and The Mellgren Planning Group representative Scott Burton, Mr. Lemack, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Rayson, Town Clerk Russell Muniz and Assistant Town Clerk Evelyn Roig recording the meeting.

Councilmember Hattan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Caletka to excuse Vice-Mayor Luis and Councilmember Starkey. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 3-0)

**2. PRESENTATION**

Mr. Burton explained that the redistricting was called for by the Town Charter when population changed. He stated population equality was the number one criterion for setting district boundaries. They strove for a difference between districts of no more than 10%. Mr. Burton said other criteria they examined were compactness and contiguity. He remarked that Davie was unique due to its irregular shape. He said achieving district compactness over 25% was pretty good. Keeping communities of interest intact was another consideration, and Mr. Burton had relied on input from the District Boundaries Review Board regarding this. The plans the Board had approved for Council's review were 2A and 2B.

Mr. Burton displayed graphics comparing his original Plan 2 and Plan 2A that contained the changes suggested by the Board. He explained that the deviation from smallest to largest district on the 2A configuration was 7% overall. Mr. Burton displayed a graphic of Plan 2B and stated that the Board had recommended these changes to the configuration based on communities of interest.

Mayor Paul felt only Plan 2A met the criterion for compactness. She said she had wanted to see a proposal that had Pine Island Ridge and Forest Ridge in a single district and Mr. Burton stated this was included in the "scenario proposal" map. He noted that the scenarios he had tried did not fit the criteria for compactness or population equality.

Chair Stevens informed Councilmember Caletka that Plan 3 had the lowest difference in population between districts, but the Board had not recommended this for Council's review. Councilmember Caletka said he wanted a plan that would achieve population equality with the least amount of change to the existing boundary lines. Chair Stevens explained that Mr. Burton's Plans 3A and 3B had the least variation while meeting population equality, but the Board had not recommended them because they were not very compact and did not respect communities of interest. Mr. Love described the communities of interest problem the Board had identified on Plan 3. Ms. Aitken said the Board had tried to remedy the communities of interest problem with Plan 3 but could not agree on a solution. Chair Stevens agreed that the Board had tried but could not find a solution that also maintained population equality. Ms. Aitken said population equality was the first criterion and compactness was second. The first test for compactness was appearance.

Mr. Love commented on the impossibility of achieving perfect compactness considering Davie's geography. He added that the census blocks had limited their ability to achieve compactness as well. Chair Stevens said all of the maps prepared by Mr. Burton met the requirements for compactness and population equality. He said Plan 2A was the only one on which the entire Board had agreed.

Councilmember Caletka suggested taking voter turnout into consideration, and pointed out that Plans 2A and 2B would have Pine Island Ridge comprising close to 80% of district 2 voter turnout, essentially meaning that "80% of the district has changed." Mayor Paul did not feel this would be a defensible criterion and Mr. Rayson agreed. Mr. Burton explained that in Davie, as in most cities, the

criterion was total population, not voting population. If they wished to count only the 18 and over voting population, this must be in the Town Charter.

Chair Stevens asked Council for any additional input the Board could consider at their next meeting.

Councilmember Caletka was disappointed because when they had voted for the new plan in 2007, he and Mayor Paul had objected because it was a complete re-working - particularly in districts 1 and 2 – and this was “the exact same thing; it’s greater than 50% change for both districts 1 and 2 again.” Mayor Paul said these plans were an attempt to return to the compactness they had taken away with the last change. Councilmember Caletka felt it was counterproductive because “that same group of people [is] swinging back and forth between two different districts.”

Ms. Aitken said she had suggested restoring the boundaries to where they had been before the previous change; she felt this was closer to where it used to be. She stated they had considered the prior demarcations and this was partly in an effort to restore them. Mr. Burton explained that there had been significant population change, exponentially near the schools and universities, and near I595 and the south area of Town. He said the population projections done by the County in 2006 had used base data from 2005. Plan 2A had been an attempt to bring back compactness while maintaining population equality.

Mayor Paul said she would sit down with Mr. Burton and the computer program to try some other designs. Chair Stevens agreed that the Board could hold another meeting if Council wished. Mr. Muniz said the current deadline for submitting to the Broward County Supervisor of Elections was November 1, but he would see if this could be extended. Mayor Paul wanted to hold the two reading at Council’s second October and first November meetings.

Karen Stenzel Nowicki referred to the current boundaries and remarked that “In 2007, Davie officials hatched a salamander...” and Pine Island Ridge had been gerrymandered into District 1. She stated Council at that time had engaged in “the practice of picking voters for electoral advantage or disadvantage.” Ms. Stenzel Nowicki said during this redistricting, the Town had incorrectly filed the district 1 boundary with the Supervisor of Elections and after this was brought forward publicly, Council had chosen not to correct the error. She said that two entire sections of the community had been discriminated against: the east side of the southeast section of district 1 and Pine Island Ridge. Ms. Stenzel Nowicki said Councilmember Caletka had devoted most of his efforts and resources to Pine Island Ridge because of its 4,000 voters. She said Council had two choices: correct the 2007 gerrymandering or ignore it. She hoped they would “do the right thing.”

Councilmember Caletka stated he devoted equal attention to all of his neighborhoods and was insulted by Ms. Stenzel Nowicki’s comment.

Chair Stevens said he respected each Councilmember because he believed they made decisions that were in the best interest of the Town.

Mayor Paul thanked the District Boundaries Review Board members for devoting their time to serving on the Board.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.