

The 2021 Wicomico County Redistricting Committee met on September 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Government Office Building, Room 301, Salisbury, Maryland.

Members Present: Wendy Anspacher, Gail Bartkovich, Muir Boda, Bernadette Cannady, Mark Danderson, Julie Giordano, and William "Kel" Nagel, M.D.

Staff Present: Laura Hurley, Recording Secretary; Andrew Illuminati, Esq., County Attorney Representative; and Frank McKenzie, GIS Coordinator.

Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2021:

On motion by Dr. Nagel and seconded by Ms. Giordano, the minutes from September 8, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Discuss 2% Deviation from Ideal Population by District:

Mr. McKenzie said he provided a series of maps with four different scenarios. He said one scenario is a balanced map basically trying to get as close to the ideal population as possible, and the second map is trying to get as close to a 2 percent deviation. He said the third map was done with a minimal impact, which was the least amount of moving lines that were required in order to meet the law. He said the final map was because there were a couple of requests where two areas were identified, one in the area of San Domingo heading towards Sharptown a little north of Hebron, and the other was a discussion of taking Hebron out of District 1 and putting it in District 2. He said he will go through each map individually. He said he prepared data that breaks out each scenario and gives them a detailed analysis, and tells them the largest size of a district, the smallest size, overall range, and median deviation based on all five districts. He said there is one of those for each scenario, and there is a second sheet that is basically a snapshot of all of them together on one page for comparison. He said the third sheet shows how many people are being moved in each scenario, which ranges from 49 people to 3,369 people.

Mr. McKenzie said he will go through each map starting with the one with minimal impact. He said they previously discussed an area of District 4, which at that time was the only district not in compliance with the 5 percent deviation requirements. He said, in this case, the Committee voted to make a map adjustment where there was basically zero population (referring to the City Park), but it was not a pretty map feature, so they moved it from District 1 into District 4. He said, in order to make District 4 in compliance, they could move an area near the park in the Village in the Park subdivision that has 49 people, and by moving those 49 people from District 3 to District 4, that brings them into compliance. He said, looking at the table of minimal impact, all of those deviations are below the 5 percent allowance.

Mr. McKenzie said the map showing the balanced population has the biggest changes because an effort was made to get the deviation as low as possible. He said the largest district has 21,064 people with a deviation of 1.05 percent, and the smallest district is 20,718 with a deviation of -0.61 percent. He said the mean deviation of all five districts is 0.50 percent. He said, as mentioned before, when they do this, they are moving the most amount of people, and in this case, they are moving 3,369 people, and there were 11 areas affected where people were moved.

Mr. McKenzie said the next scenario is where there was concern about an area in Mardela and taking all of Hebron into District 2. He said the deviation for District 2 is now 0.19 percent, the deviation for District 1 is 3.02 percent, and the percentage of black people in District 1 is 59.66 percent.

Mr. McKenzie said the final request was to get the deviation as close to 2 percent as possible, which is just as difficult as trying to get it to 0 percent. He said there are a lot of different ways to do it, but what he came up with had the largest district with a 3.01 percent deviation, and the smallest was a 0.88 percent deviation, but when he balanced out all five districts, the average deviation was 2.07 percent. He clarified, he could not hit that 2 percent on all the districts, but on average he got it to 2 percent. He said, if the goal is to get each district closer to 2 percent, it will be a lot of give and take.

Ms. Bartkovich said it looks like they moved about 1,288 people with the 2 percent deviation map, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, that is correct, and there were seven areas affected. Dr. Nagel asked if they can look at the areas that were affected. Mr. McKenzie then showed the areas on the map that would be affected. He said this takes part of Hebron out of District 1 into District 2, but the main body of Hebron still stays in District 1. He then showed an area on Route 349 where 115 people were moved from District 1 to District 2. Dr. Nagel asked how that impacts the black population percentage-wise in District 1, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, it changed to 57.96 from 57.73. He then showed an area near Glen Avenue where 613 people were moved from District 3 to District 4, an area on Mt. Hermon Road that was District 5 where there were approximately 69 people moved to District 3, and an area where there were 149 people moved from District 5 to District 3. He said, as he makes these changes, he makes sure the lines make sense and look smooth. He then referred to an area on Route 13 near Zion Road where he used Route 13 as the boundary. He said there were 45 people in that area who would move from District 5 to District 1. Dr. Nagel asked what the racial balance was among that group, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, there were nine black people moved into District 1. Dr. Nagel pointed out that it also moved 36 white people into District 1, which has the affect of decreasing the percentage of minorities in the district. He said he thinks they should definitely avoid packing the minority district with every black person in the County.

Mr. Danderson said he is completely uncomfortable with this approach because they are making these moves without context. He said they have a narrative from the Council saying what the Committee needs to do legally, and the Council prefers they not make too many changes on the current map. He said they have not been told what Wicomico County looks like in 2020, where they are, or who they are, so he went to the census data, and this is the problem he has – this County is approximately one-third rural, one-third live in the City of Salisbury, one-third live in the built-up areas around Salisbury, and one-third are minority. He said, looking at the original map and all the maps Mr. McKenzie provided today, the rural population has a majority in three out of five districts, and that is inequitable. He said, in Districts 2, 5, and 3 the majority of the population live in the rural parts of the County, but those in the central part of the County who make up 67 percent of the population only have a majority in two districts. Ms. Giordano said it is the same number of people in each district. Mr. Danderson said the local issues faced in County government are schools, taxes, and fire, but in urban built-up areas the issues that are more concerning are gas lines, water lines, sewer lines, street cleaning, and street lighting. Ms. Giordano said she really thinks that is a bigger issue than what this Committee is doing, to which Mr. Danderson responded, but they are trying to make this map equitable. He said they want to make it equitable and reflect who they are in the County, to which Ms. Bartkovich responded, they are trying to make it equitable for voting, not trying to make it equitable for services. Mr. Danderson said, but they

are taking his voice away. He said he lives in the urban area, and they are taking his voice and the voice of his neighbors away because the people who live in the rural areas control three districts. Ms. Bartkovich clarified, not all of the population are eligible to vote because they cannot vote until they are at least 18. She said, if they look at past elections, the numbers are much smaller of those who vote than who actually live in the districts. Mr. Danderson said that is reasonable, but still they are dividing the population up in such a way that those who live in the center of the County have their voices diminished because they do not form a majority in three districts as they should, they only form a majority in two districts – District 4 and District 1. He said they are the majority of the population, but they do not form a majority in the majority of the districts, to which Ms. Bartkovich responded, each district has a representative and citizens brings their issues to their representative who sits on either the City Council or the County Council, and those are the people who he is supposed to express his issues to. Mr. Danderson clarified, that is exactly his point – there are three representatives expressing the views of their constituents who live in the rural parts of the County, and they only have two representatives for those who represent 67 percent of the population. Ms. Giordano said they really do not because there are 20,000 in each district, so between Districts 1 and 4 there are 40,000 people, and between Districts 2, 3, and 5 there are 60,000, so the urban districts are not really the majority, to which Mr. Danderson responded, that is because they have taken people from the urban core and divided them up. Ms. Giordano asked if Mr. Danderson is saying his district should be bigger and have more people, to which Mr. Danderson responded, no. He clarified, he is saying that one of the Committee’s objectives should be to make sure that at least one more district has a majority in the central core, and if they do that, two districts will have rural majorities, which reflects their population of one-third, and three districts will have people who live in built-up areas with majorities, which reflects their population of 67 percent.

Mr. Danderson said the other thing is that African Americans make up 30 percent of the population, not 20, so Dr. Nagel’s point is correct. He said the way this map is now, the African American population does not have a sizeable minority in any other district, they only have the majority in one, and no sizeable minority in any of the others, though they represent 30 percent of the population, so their voices are also being diminished as well. He clarified, that is his view - these maps diminish the voices of him and his neighbors, and he is not happy about that.

Mr. Boda said, looking at District 1, though land-wise it has a lot in the rural area, the majority of the population is going to be the City of Salisbury, to which Mr. Danderson responded, that is one of the majority urban areas. Mr. Boda said, in District 4, all of the people are City residents. He said, just by looking at it, he thinks a majority of the population of District 3 live either in the City, in the suburbs, or in the Town of Fruitland. Mr. Danderson said he went through all the numbers and has the statistics. He said District 1 is 69 percent central core, District 2 is 44 percent, District 3 is 47 percent, District 4 is 100 percent, and District 5 is 33 percent, so the rural population forms a 56 percent majority in District 2, a 53 percent majority in District 3, and a 67 percent majority in District 5.

Ms. Bartkovich said this Committee’s purpose is for voting purposes and representation to make each of the five districts as equal as possible. She reiterated, that is what their requirement is, and that is what they are required to do. She said she believes it was the request of the Council to move as few people as possible and maintain District 1 as the minority district. Mr. Danderson said, if that is the principle, then why not just make changes to 16004 and 16005 by taking blocks from those two precincts from District 3 and putting them into District 1? Ms. Bartkovich said the precincts may change once the State gets through with their redistricting for Delegates and Representatives, so these precincts may not be what

they currently are. She clarified, they may change, or they may disappear, so they cannot do it by precincts either, they are doing it by population in each councilmanic district. Mr. Danderson said they could take blocks from those two precincts, which will give an urban majority in District 2 and make District 1 have 34 percent minority giving African Americans an opportunity to gain a second seat. He said these maps just give more power to people who live in rural districts, to which Ms. Giordano responded, she disagrees. Ms. Bartkovich said she disagrees with Mr. Danderson too.

Mr. Boda said, if they were to go the route of trying to create a second minority district, when reading the minutes from the last Redistricting Committee, they were talking about jerrymandering, and there would be significant amounts of jerrymandering to accomplish that. Mr. Danderson said all they have to do is change a few blocks from District 3 to District 4 in precincts 16004 and 16005. Dr. Nagel asked where those precincts are, to which Mr. Danderson responded, the northern end of Fruitland. Dr. Nagel said that would increase the minority population in District 4. Ms. Bartkovich responded, she thinks right now in District 4 they use a river or stream as a district line, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, yes.

Mr. Danderson clarified, he wants to look at this from a larger perspective and see if the district maps of this County actually reflect who they are and where they are, and they do not. He said they can disagree with him, but they do not, they reflect highways, not who they are or where they are.

Ms. Bartkovich said the other piece of this is that they are supposed to use natural boundaries as much as possible when setting up the districts, to which Mr. Danderson responded, he understands that, but highways are not natural boundaries. Ms. Bartkovich said they are considered major boundaries, just like rivers and streams.

Mr. Danderson said, having played with this over the last couple of weeks, if they have the goal of making a minimum number of changes as the Council has asked and the goal of making the districts more reflective of who and where they are, all they really have to do is move blocks from 16004 and 16005 out of District 3 and into Districts 1 and 2. He said, if they do that, District 2 goes from 44 percent rural to 50 percent urban, and District 4 would have a minority population of about 33 percent. Ms. Bartkovich said this map does not show precinct lines, so she does not know where they can draw the lines, to which Mr. Danderson responded, precinct 16004 is easy to figure out because it is Route 13 and the blue line on this map. He said 16005 is pretty much everything to the west within the City of Fruitland. Mr. McKenzie asked if the Committee wants him to make those changes just to experiment with it, to which Ms. Giordano responded, he can, but she just does not feel comfortable doing this for Mr. Danderson's benefit or what he thinks because it is his one voice and one person, and she does not really feel that he necessarily represents every single person in District 1. She said, while she thinks his efforts are great, their goals were given to them by someone higher up, so if he has an issue with the goals they gave them, she thinks his issue is a way bigger issue than what they can fix here. She said she feels like they were told what to follow, and she feels like Mr. Danderson's vision is not that, to which Mr. Danderson responded, no, his vision is, if they make the changes he mentioned, they meet all the goals they were instructed to make. Ms. Giordano said, but that is also adding in Mr. Danderson's personal agenda, and she does not like his personal agenda. Mr. Danderson said he is content to have equity, to which Ms. Giordano responded, she just does not think everybody is comfortable with that. She clarified, she does not want to speak for everybody, but she is not necessarily comfortable with Mr. Danderson's personal feelings towards this map not being equitable when they have people above them who have given them a task and guidelines. Mr. Danderson said he is perfectly willing to live within

those guidelines, and he has not suggested anything that would not live within those guidelines. He said, in fact, the changes he suggested, impact two precincts and a handful of blocks, which is exactly what the Council said they wanted.

Ms. Bartkovich said the other thing is that the only district where they were asked to be conscious of the white population and black population is District 1, and she believes they are supposed to disregard what the population is as to color, race, or nationality in the other four districts. She said their concern is black and white in District 1 only, and she is just not sure where Mr. Danderson is going with these populations, to which Mr. Danderson responded, equity. Ms. Bartkovich said they are trying to have equity as that was the direction given to them, to which Mr. Danderson responded, what they are trying to do is silence him and his neighbors, and he is not happy with that. He said what they are doing is putting the rural people in charge of 60 percent of the districts while the people who live in the center, he and his neighbors, only have representatives from two districts, to which Ms. Bartkovich responded, then he has two voices on the Council, and she only has one voice on the Council, so he is ahead of her.

Ms. Cannady said she understands what Mr. Danderson is saying because she has been going over these maps too, but at the same time she does not know if they can fix this problem on this Committee. She clarified, she totally agrees with what Mr. Danderson is saying and she has been going over this in her head, to which Mr. Danderson responded, their job is to draw lines, so how is that not within their purview? He said the Council did not specifically say make the map equitable, but they did say to keep changes to a minimum, and they can keep changes to a minimum and change this map so it is more reflective of who and where they are.

Ms. Bartkovich said she does not understand the “who and where we are” part, to which Mr. Danderson responded, the majority live right in the center of Salisbury. He said Ms. Giordano was talking about Hebron being separated into two districts – lucky Hebron, his town is divided into five. Ms. Bartkovich said the size of the population in Salisbury is too big to put it in one councilmanic district, and Fruitland is coming close, to which Mr. Danderson responded, they could put it in less than five. He said this map is not fair to the City of Salisbury, which probably reflects why the City of Salisbury does not enjoy a County tax break and is one of the few cities in the State that does not enjoy that because three of the people on the Council have to answer to the minority one-third of the population, so that is not surprising. Ms. Bartkovich asked if Mr. Danderson is talking about the tax differential, to which Mr. Danderson responded, yes. Ms. Bartkovich said that is a discussion that the County Council and the City Council need to have, not this Committee, to which Mr. Danderson responded, that is correct, that is not their purview, but this map is the reason why that is not happening.

Ms. Bartkovich asked Mr. McKenzie if he made any other changes to the 2 percent map, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, he thinks they have gone through all the areas that were identified on the paper map. He said there were seven areas with changes. Ms. Bartkovich said this moves 1,280 people.

Mr. McKenzie then went back to the map with the two special requests. Ms. Bartkovich said this map moves 1,586 people, and those changes were made in Hebron and Route 54.

Ms. Bartkovich said she likes the idea of the balanced map, but she thinks moving 3,369 people is an awful lot, and she is not sure about that.

Ms. Bartkovich asked if anyone has a preference towards any of the maps, or any maps they do not want? She said she is not in favor of the balanced map as she thinks moving 3,369 people is a lot to move, to which Dr. Nagel responded, it is, but half of them do not know what district they live in now.

Ms. Anspacher said the deviation on the balanced map is where they want it, but she sees what Ms. Bartkovich is saying. She said moving 3,369 people is a lot, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, that would also be a lot for the Board of Elections to track.

Ms. Bartkovich suggested going through each map to see what everyone thinks. She suggested they start with the minimal map, which moves 49 people and has the changes near the Salisbury City Park and the Village in the Park neighborhood. Mrs. Hurley clarified, there was already a vote on that map to make that change.

Ms. Anspacher asked to go back to the special requests map. Ms. Bartkovich said this map included widening along Route 54 and changes to Hebron. Mr. McKenzie said there was an area taken out of District 2 and put in District 1, and part of Hebron was taken out of District 1 and put into District 2. Ms. Anspacher asked if this makes all of Hebron in District 2, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, no. He said, if they want all of Hebron to be in one district, there are six people right now who are not in District 2. Ms. Giordano said it would make sense to add those six people. Ms. Cannady asked how that changes the percentage of black people in District 1, to which Ms. Giordano responded, it actually makes the percentage go up to 59.64 in District 1. Mr. McKenzie clarified, if they move those six people, it would change to 59.66.

Mr. Danderson asked, why are they singling out Hebron? He said, if they are going to put Hebron together, that is fine and he does not have a problem with that, but then why not do the same to Fruitland, to which Ms. Bartkovich responded, she thinks the population is too large in Fruitland and too expansive. Mr. Danderson asked if they are saying that equity is for people in small towns and not for people in larger communities? He said, if they want to put Hebron together, he is going to insist they put Fruitland together. He said, if that is a desired thing for Hebron, then it should also be a desired change for Fruitland, to which Ms. Giordano responded, as long as the deviation is not off. She then asked if Mr. Danderson wants to add Fruitland to District 4, to which Mr. Danderson responded, no. He said, if they are going to make that change, he would move it to District 2. Mrs. Hurley asked if they would then have Hebron and Fruitland both in District 2, to which Mr. Danderson responded, no, he thinks Hebron should all be moved to District 1. He said, if they want to unite Hebron, put it all in District 1, and if they unite all of Fruitland, put it all in District 2, and then that takes care of the population.

Ms. Giordano said moving all of Fruitland and all of Hebron would be about 3,500 people, to which Mr. Danderson responded, it is. Ms. Giordano said they kind of agreed that they do not want to move that many people, to which Mr. Danderson responded, he agrees, they do not want to do that. He asked, again, just because Hebron is small should they put it together? He said it is inequitable, to which Ms. Giordano responded, it is an easy fix and it kept everything in line. She said she thinks they are trying to keep a simple solution, to which Mr. Danderson responded, it may be the simplest solution, but what about the people in Fruitland? He said he gets it, Ms. Giordano lives in Hebron and she wants her community together, and he agrees that is a reasonable request, but if they are going to do that, they should do it for everyone. Ms. Giordano clarified, it is not that she necessarily wants Hebron together, but one of the goals was that towns should not be split, so one of the fixes was to see what would happen when they put Hebron together, and it worked. She said they can try Fruitland, but she thinks

that is going to mess with the numbers in District 3 because the rest of District 3 is so rural and it is not going to have enough population. Mr. Danderson said this does not seem just to him because Fruitland is split down the middle while Hebron is only a small section that is split. Ms. Giordano said it is like they had two problems of split towns, and now they only have one, so she feels like that is a success. Mr. Danderson said he agrees, and it is admirable to put it together, but then every single town on this map would be together except for Fruitland. Ms. Bartkovich clarified, she believes Fruitland is a City. She said both Fruitland and Salisbury are Cities, and the other municipalities are all considered towns by the State. Ms. Cannady asked if they are just talking about town limits because they could also say that Mardela is split. Mr. Boda clarified, they are referring to the municipal limits of a town, and the municipal limits of Mardela are all in District 2. He said, if someone's mailing address is Mardela, that would be different, but they are talking about municipal boundaries.

Mr. Danderson said maybe Ms. Giordano has a point, and maybe they should put the rest of Fruitland in District 3, to which Ms. Giordano responded, she does not think taking anything from District 2 would be smart because that district is already low, so the deviation would be off. Mr. Danderson said that is true, but they are taking them to District 1 and that is the one closest to the desired mean, so why change District 1 at all? Ms. Giordano said they do not have to change District 1, but it takes the population from 57 percent to 59 percent, and, from what she understands, the goal is to get it as close to 60. Mr. Danderson asked, whose goal is that, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, in previous years they had to be above 50 percent but get as high as they can above 50 percent, and the last time they were at 58 percent. Mr. Danderson said that diminished the African American voice because they are not 20 percent of the population, they are 30 percent of the population. He said, if they are going to put as many as possible into District 1, they have actually diminished the voice of the African American community, not increased it. Mr. McKenzie said they would need to have 40 percent of the population in order to get two districts for the minority requirements. Mr. Danderson said the law says 51 percent, so they should make a district with 51 percent minority and that would increase the African American voice in other districts, which gives that community an opportunity to gain a second voice on the Council commensurate with their population size in the County. He said he is looking at population data, he is looking at who they are and where they live, and whether the County Council would reflect who they are and where they live with this map, and that is how he is looking at this.

Ms. Giordano said anybody can run at at-large. She said there are two at-large seats, so there is that opportunity, but Mr. Danderson just keeps looking at Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. She said she could argue back that the minority population is at 30 percent, so then that means the other population is 60 percent, which would be three out of five, so Mr. Danderson adding that is actually diminishing her voice. She said they could run at-large for those two seats, so there are two other opportunities for minorities to be on the County Council that has nothing to do with district lines because they can be anywhere in the County, to which Mr. Danderson responded, that is true. He said 60 percent sounds like an arbitrary number to him, to which Ms. Giordano responded, she was just using Mr. Danderson's number, but it is really 70 percent, so they are really three out of five, and we are really actually not represented if they are supposed to be 70 percent. Mr. Danderson asked, who is we, to which Ms. Giordano responded, she is just saying the black voice, the white voice.

Mr. Danderson clarified, he is looking at this from the perspective of services and the services people require from their local government, and the needs and desires of people who live in built-up areas is different than the needs and desires of people in rural areas, so he is not looking at it from the

perspective of race. Ms. Giordano asked, how does Mr. Danderson know what the needs and wants are of a rural community? She said they do not even have City water, to which Mr. Danderson responded, exactly, and that is the point. Ms. Giordano said her point is that Mr. Danderson is talking about one group, and she is having a hard time following the logic right now, to which Mr. Danderson responded, the logic is they have three districts with people who live in rural districts as the majority of the population, so the issues that are important to people who live in rural areas are going to be different from people who live in built-up areas.

Ms. Bartkovich said each person on the Council has one vote, to which Mr. Danderson responded, exactly, and that is where the problem lies. He said each Councilmember has a vote commensurate with the population of their district, to which Ms. Giordano responded, it is one voice and one vote for 20,000 people. Mr. Danderson said the problem is that 67,000 of them have two voices, that is the problem. Ms. Bartkovich said she thinks that is a plus because she is only represented by one person and that is one vote. Ms. Giordano said, again, they have the at-large seats that can be anyone.

Dr. Nagel said he wants to go back to where it was stated that black people have a good chance to elect Councilmembers at-large and remind everybody of the reason they have a minority district. He said, in the 100 years between reconstruction and when one man one vote made them have district voting, there was, he believes, one African American Councilmember elected in those 100 years, so to say that African Americans have a great chance of being elected districtwide is a stretch. He clarified, he would be happy to vote for one, but Ms. Giordano's statement was inaccurate.

Dr. Nagel said, in an effort to get things moving he would like to make a motion or a recommendation that this Committee ask Mr. McKenzie to come up with some data and a map covering Mr. Danderson's request. He said they have a map for the request for Hebron, so he thinks it would be fair and he would really appreciate having a clearer or less confused idea of what those changes in Fruitland would be. Mr. McKenzie said he can certainly look up some different scenarios for this if the goal is to have Fruitland all in one district, either 2 or 3, and then see what that does to the other districts.

Dr. Nagel said he thinks it was stated that their charge is not to look at equity, and they were not specifically charged with that, but they would be foolish not to look at making sure the districts are equitable. He said America is about having free and fair elections, to which Ms. Giordano responded, absolutely. She clarified, she was just saying that she is trying to follow the guidelines of what was given to her and what she signed a paper stating. Dr. Nagel said, if Ms. Giordano does not mind, he is not going to refer to them as "higher ups," to which Ms. Giordano responded, that is fine, and she is okay with that. She said it is just that she is feeling like they were given a specific task and she feels like the wants and needs are larger than what they can do here by November or December, which is the date they said they would have this done, and she is afraid that it will not be accomplished. She said this probably should have started in March, but it did not, it started in July. Dr. Nagel said they can blame the Department of Commerce for that, to which Ms. Giordano responded, yes because they needed the data, but this is a very large task and she does not even know if they have the power to do that.

Dr. Nagel clarified, this Committee does not have power to do anything. He said whatever they do can be and likely will be either completely changed or slightly modified by the Council, so this Committee is not going to be overly zealous, but they ought to do the best they can is what he is saying.

Ms. Giordano said she does not want them to think that the County Council does not want changes made. She said she has talked to every single one of them, and if this Committee did what the Council wants, they would be moving tens of thousands of people to make their districts, so it has nothing to do with the Council keeping everything the same because they want to ensure their seat. She said, if she was doing what the Council had asked, it would be thousands and thousands of people because some of these things do not even make sense to them.

Ms. Bartkovich asked if they are going to make any more decisions on the maps tonight, to which Ms. Anspacher responded, she thinks they need to decide which map they do not want and eliminate a couple of those right now, and then they will just have a couple to deal with.

Dr. Nagel said he thinks, as much as he would like to see all of the Council districts be within one to a half percent deviation, they cannot move 4,000 people, and that would get voted down anyway.

Mr. McKenzie said he was experimenting just now with a map where he temporarily assigned all of Fruitland to District 2, which puts District 2 over by 4,327 people, District 3 lost 3,554 people, and there is a deviation of 17 percent in District 3 and 20 percent above in District 2. Mr. Danderson asked, what if he did that in reverse and instead of putting all of Fruitland in 2, put it in 3. Mr. McKenzie tried that and said now District 3 has a deviation of +11.89 percent and District 2 has a deviation of -8 percent. He said, in order for this to happen, they would have to chop up District 4 and see what happens, and then they would have to work with District 1, and that has been an area they want to protect. He said the only place they could make up those areas would be Districts 4 and 5, and it would take some effort to figure that out, but he can certainly try. He said, once they start moving things around and taking from one district, it affects the other districts, so it just takes a series of testing to see how they could move this forward. He clarified, he can certainly try and come up with something that does not look too jerrymandered, but he does not have much confidence that it would not look jerrymandered.

Ms. Cannady asked what happens once they present this to the Council, to which Ms. Bartkovich responded, they are required to hold a Public Hearing on the plan the Committee recommends, and then they make a decision. She said also when Mr. Gutierrez from the Board of Elections gets the State maps there may be some changes, and they have had that happen before with the precincts because the lines need to match up, so there will be changes made.

Mr. McKenzie said, prior to the establishment of the Redistricting Committee, he worked with the County Attorney and there were two maps submitted for Council consideration. He said one was a minimal impact map and one was something closer to the ideal population, and the Council had a choice. He clarified, he believes this was in 1980. Ms. Bartkovich said the Charter says a plan is submitted, which, to her, means one.

Ms. Bartkovich asked the Committee if there are any maps they do not want to consider, to which Ms. Anspacher responded, she is in favor of getting rid of the balanced one and the minimal impact one, and just work with the two percent and the requests. Ms. Cannady said she disagrees with that and thinks they need to keep the minimal impact map. She clarified, she thinks the balanced one should go, but they need to keep the minimal one. Ms. Bartkovich said they should vote on one map at a time and not include two in the motion.

Mr. Illuminati said, as a point of order, Dr. Nagel made a motion for Mr. McKenzie to research moving Fruitland, and that was never seconded. He said he realizes Mr. McKenzie sort of did it here, to which Dr. Nagel responded, Mr. McKenzie said he would do it. Mr. Illuminati said there was a motion on the floor, but if it is withdrawn, that just sort of clarifies that for the record. He clarified, Dr. Nagel made a motion and Mr. McKenzie entertained that to a degree, but he does not know if that has placated everybody, so his motion is still on the floor and needs to either be seconded or it dies. Mr. Danderson seconded the motion.

Mr. Boda asked Mr. McKenzie how much work it would be for him to do this, as he knows he has already played with it a little bit, to which Mr. McKenzie responded, there will be some art to make it work, but he is certainly willing to give it a shot. Mr. Boda said he is in favor of entertaining it just to see it.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Nagel and seconded by Mr. Danderson, it was unanimously decided to have Mr. McKenzie work on a map as suggested by Mr. Danderson.

Mr. McKenzie asked if this is for Fruitland only, and they are not worried about Hebron right now, to which Dr. Nagel responded, the motion has to do with what Mr. Danderson was proposing in southern areas of Salisbury, Fruitland, and the Tony Tank area. Ms. Bartkovich asked if they want to try to keep Fruitland together just like they are trying to do with Hebron, to which Dr. Nagel responded, no, he does not care about that. He clarified, he wants to see geographically and statistically what affects Mr. Danderson's ideas would have, to which Mr. Danderson added, which were changes to blocks in precincts 16004 and 16005 moving them from District 3 to Districts 4 and 2, just for clarification.

Mr. Danderson said the issue with Fruitland and Hebron kind of got combined, but the original issue was, if they want to make minimal changes while making the map more equitable and more reflective of the population of the County, they could move blocks from precincts 16004 and 16005 from District 3 to Districts 4 and 2 to give them the population. Ms. Bartkovich asked, so this is not putting all of Fruitland in one district, to which Mr. Danderson responded, it is pretty clear that doing that would be too big of a change. Ms. Bartkovich asked if they need another motion on that, to which Dr. Nagel responded, he thinks Mr. Danderson was just clarifying the motion. Ms. Bartkovich asked if everyone is okay with that, to which Mr. Illuminati responded, the vote was unanimous, but if anyone feels they would have voted opposite based on this clarification, they would need another vote.

Ms. Bartkovich asked if they should go back to the balanced map, to which Ms. Anspacher responded, she likes the deviation on that, but, again, she thinks it is too many people to move, so she will make the motion to eliminate that map. Mr. Boda seconded the motion.

Mr. Danderson said this map included that change that they voted on at the last meeting, so, just for clarification, if they vote this map down, does that change still remain, to which Ms. Anspacher responded, they are just talking about the balanced map. Mr. Boda clarified, that change, he thinks, stays on any map that Mr. McKenzie will do going forward.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Ms. Anspacher and seconded by Mr. Boda, it was unanimously agreed to eliminate the balanced map.

Ms. Bartkovich said now they are down to the minimal map, the special request map, the 2 percent map, and the one Mr. McKenzie will work on.

Mrs. Hurley asked if they would like these maps posted on the webpage for the public. Ms. Bartkovich questioned whether they should do that since they have not made a real decision yet. She said their purpose is to come up with basically one map, and they are not here for public input, that will be the County Council with their public hearing. Dr. Nagel clarified, that does not mean they will not get any public input as this is going to be on TV. Mrs. Hurley said these are public meetings and the public is invited. Mrs. Bartkovich asked the Committee if they feel these maps should be posted on the website. Mr. McKenzie said he can create the maps in PDF form so the public will be able to zoom in and see the streets. Ms. Bartkovich said, since PAC 14 cannot zoom in on these maps, she does not see why they cannot put them on the webpage. She then asked if there is any reason legally that they cannot do that, to which Mr. Illuminati responded, it is fine. He clarified, it is an open meeting and somebody, in theory, could issue an MPIA and it would be discoverable. Mr. McKenzie said he will mark all the maps as drafts, to which Ms. Bartkovich responded, that is a good idea.

Closing Remarks:

Ms. Bartkovich said their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Cannady said she is not going to be able to be at that meeting because she will be out of town. She then asked what that means for her vote because she hates to miss a meeting, to which Ms. Bartkovich responded, right now they only have October 20 and November 10 scheduled, and a lot of that is because this room is used by other groups. She said, since they are subject to the Open Meetings Act, they have the meeting in this room so PAC 14 can record the meeting. She then asked if there were any other dates that could be worked out, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, she could go get the calendar. Ms. Cannady said she will be out of town from that Wednesday until probably that Monday.

After looking at the calendar, Wednesday, October 27 was the only day that was open where everyone was available to meet. Ms. Bartkovich said they would like to be done before Thanksgiving, and everybody gets busy with the holidays. Mrs. Hurley said she could check the availability of the Civic Center as PAC 14 can record there. Mr. Boda said the Fire Department, Station 16, also has the capability of having PAC 14 record meetings. Mrs. Hurley said she will tentatively schedule the meeting for the 27th and then email the Committee with some other dates.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Boda, seconded by Ms. Cannady, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.


Gail Bartkovich, Chair


Laura Hurley, Recording Secretary