



Building A Better Community

Redistricting Task Force

Regular Meeting, June 21, 2021

Minutes

The Task Force met via Zoom videoconference. Robin Greenberg, BABCNC President, chaired the meeting and called the roll: Ellen Evans, Robin Greenberg, Nickie Miner, Cathy Wayne, Bob Schlesinger, and Travis Longcore.

On a unanimous vote, the Task Force adopted the agenda that had been circulated before the meeting.

The Task Force then had an extended discussion of the redistricting process and considerations for BABCNC. A few key points arose that became the subject of a proposed course of action.

- Many redistricting processes are going on simultaneously, but BABCNC is primarily focused on the City of Los Angeles redistricting for City Council districts.
- The redistricting commission is currently getting organized and hiring its external consultants who will draw the new district lines. They will also provide an online mapping tool that will allow the public to explore their own preferred scenarios.
- Data needed to start the redistricting has not yet been released by the US Census Bureau and is unlikely to be released until August.
- Between now and August the commission will hold a series of outreach events in each of the 15 council districts. The dates for the two relevant districts for BABCNC are July 7 for CD5 and August 4 for CD4.
- In the previous redistricting in 2010, the commission had recommended splitting Benedict Canyon in two with different representation for either side of Benedict Canyon Boulevard. Residents strongly objected and the City Council adjusted the lines, which left a narrow isthmus connecting Sherman Oaks to the remainder of CD4.
- Before it receives the data, the redistricting commission is interested in hearing from residents about what consider to be their “communities of interest.” The NC itself is automatically considered to be a community of interest.
- Members saw different advantages to representation by one or two councilmembers. Inclusion in a single district gives the NC more weight within that district and does not water down its influence. Having two council members that represent the NC has the potential for collaboration between the members or sharing of initiatives that are

responsive to the needs of the district, but only if the councilmembers are politically aligned with the needs and priorities of the NC.

- Many aspects of life may define communities of interest. Some of those discussed were hillside areas, very high fire hazard areas, police service areas, community plans, and historical political alliances such as the Valley and Westside.
- One of the strategies for the Task Force is to make recommendations on areas that should not be divided between council district in the event that the NC continues to be split into different districts.
- Redistricting commission members may not be taking ex parte meetings during the process. It seemed reasonable to request a meeting with the representatives appointed by CD4 and CD5.

Members of the public attending were invited to comment. Bradford Cobb is a constituent currently located in the CD4 portion of the district and expressed disappointment with current representation in the district and support for previous representation.

Following this discussion, the Task Force agreed to meet again on June 28, 2021. At that time members will report on further thoughts and reactions regarding what the communities of interest are that are of greatest concern to BABCNC to communicate to the redistricting commission.

The Task Force also agreed to promote the July 7th outreach event for CD5 to all BABCNC stakeholders (regardless of current CD) so that voices of BABCNC stakeholders are heard early in the process and to inform a more detailed submission of priorities that the Task Force would recommend to BABCNC for adoption and submission to the commission.

President Greenberg nominated and the Task Force elected Travis Longcore to chair the task force on a unanimous vote.