

**CITY OF ESCONDIDO  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
THE INDEPENDENT  
DISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**October 24, 2013**

The meeting of the Independent Districting Commission was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairperson Nuesca at Felicita Elementary School, 737 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Escondido, California.

**Commissioners Present:** Chairperson Nuesca, Commissioner Flores, Vice-Chairperson Valdez, and Commissioner Cruz.

**Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner Ramirez, Commissioner Anderson, and Commissioner Carey.

**Staff Present:** Diane Halverson, City Clerk; Eva Heter, Assistant City Clerk; Megan Grimm, Executive Office Coordinator; Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk; and Livier Valenzuela, Interpretation Services.

**Workshop by Q2** – Workshop by Expert Consultant, Q2, regarding districting process and public input.

Chairperson Nuesca provided an overview of protocol for the meeting.

**Karin MacDonald and Nichole Boyle and Jamie Clark, Q2 Data & Research, LLC**, provided the presentation. (Presentation available at City Clerk's Office.)

Chairperson Nuesca recessed the meeting at 6:42 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the maps with the public and reconvened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

**Public Hearing** – Public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines; Public input regarding their Community of Interest (COI).

**Robert Fawley, Member of the Escondido Country Club Homeowners Organization**, noted that they had collected 9,360 signatures by 360 volunteers in 60 days regarding the Country Club initiative. He asked that the area bordering the Escondido Country Club area and east to Dixon Lake, north to the City Limit, and south to El Norte and Highway 78 be kept in one district. (Map provided)

**Jerry Swadley, Escondido, President of the Escondido Country Club Homeowners Organization**, noted that they had developed their map with the combined help of consultants. He stated that their community of interest included the Escondido Country Club area with Escondido High School being in the middle

of the district, with the northern and western boundaries being the City limit. He stated that they were within 28 people of the stated ideal district population. He also indicated that they took special care not to encroach on the central portion of the City, eastern portion area, or mobile home parks. (Map provided)

**Kevin Svetich, Escondido**, noted that his business was located in the heart of the City. He stated that the Grand Avenue business district helped bring the area together for over a century. He felt the business center of the City extended east to Ash Street and west to Quince Street and beyond. He stated that the long-standing business area had grown and the historic recognition of the downtown and its residences had been formalized by the creation of Historic Escondido with this area being governed by a special set of land-use and architectural standards that did not apply to anywhere else in the City. He felt this area was uniquely bound together by its history and the regulations passed to preserve history. He asked that special attention be paid to this area and as such this area should have its own representative.

**James McNair, Escondido**, noted that his community of interested involved the eastern part of the City. He stated that it would be a mistake to split up the Eastern citizens of Escondido given its unique characteristics. (Map provided)

**Brian Murphy, Escondido**, stated that the eastern part of the City, where he lived and where the cemetery was located, had a unique character, as it was rural in nature. He also noted that the housing subdivisions had a non-City flavor due to the agriculture in the areas. He asked that the eastern portion of the City be kept as one district.

**Pat Mues, Escondido**, stated that her community of interest (COI) boundary for the north was Escondido Creek, east being Ash, South being 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and west being Centre City Parkway. She stated that her COI included the library, Grand Avenue Retail District, City Hall, Center for the Arts, Grape Day Park, Central Elementary School and numerous residential neighborhoods. She was in favor of her COI being a walkable community, noting that more sidewalks, streetlights and improvements were needed to reach this goal. She was in favor of the representative living in the district they represented.

**Kimber Allison, Escondido**, expressed concern with her Homeowners Association not being represented, noting she lived on Charise Street. She suggested using the City Police Department's beat map as a guide for creating the districts.

**Luz Villafana, Escondido**, stated that her community of interested involved the area from El Norte Parkway to Nutmeg, Country Club Lane to North Broadway, and Lincoln to the south. She stated that this was a very populated area and was very diverse. She noted that most of the individuals in the area were young. She expressed her concern with the excessive traffic in the area creating safety issues

with the residents and students in the area. She felt mitigation measures needed to be implemented such as longer traffic signals and street markings in order to ensure safety for pedestrians and students in the area. She also felt sidewalks were needed in the area surrounding Rock Springs Middle School.

**Nidya Ramirez, Escondido**, referenced the area around 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Community housing Co-Ops where the majority of residents were Latino immigrant working class communities with Spanish being their main language. She stated that she attended San Pasqual High School, noting that she felt a sense of marginalization due to the school not being as diverse as the other schools in the City. She also stated that her Community of Interest surrounded Interfaith, which was located on Quince and Washington Avenue.


**Patricia Serano, Escondido**, stated that her community was 90% Hispanic who were united by their language and culture. She stated that they had numerous Mexican businesses. She indicated that her son attended Oak Hill School, Hidden Valley Middle School, and Orange Glen High School that were categorized as less fortunate schools, noting her son was accepted to an Ivy League College. She stated that it was very important that this community remain together as one district. She stated that this community felt it was marginalized by the closing of the library and budget cuts.

**Mark Skok, Escondido**, stated that his community of interest involved Broadway and Lincoln to the northeast, following Lincoln out to El Norte Parkway south to Valley Parkway and Valley Parkway west to Broadway. He stated that this area had common factors with ethnicity and traffic issues along Mission, Lincoln, and Washington Avenue. He also noted that the area encompassed the Escondido Creek.

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Robroy Fawcett, Escondido**, referenced a handout he had provided to the Commission and staff. He made special reference to a link regarding an overview of race and Hispanic origin, noting his view that there was a huge misunderstanding regarding what is a race, origin, or ethnicity. He then referenced Questions 5 and 6 as outlined in the Hispanic Origin and Race from the 2010 Census and noted that this did not take into account last name or whether the person spoke the language outlined. He referenced Question 6 (race) of his outline, and asked that the Commission consider having two columns, one being Hispanic or Latino, and one being non-Hispanic and non-Latino.

**Adjournment:** Chairperson Nuesca adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m. The next meeting was set for October 27, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

  
Chairman Nuesca

  
Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk