

BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI  
MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2023

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Tom Mooney (via Zoom), Steve O'Rourke, Ann Pluemer, Tom Schneider (via Zoom), Ben Uchitelle, and Steve Wegert

Commissioners Absent: George Riddick and Stephanie Robinson

Commission Staff Present: Michelle Dougherty, Executive Director  
Michael Hart, Legal Counsel

Others present:

Paul Weatherford, County Planning Dept

Chairman Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the first-floor conference room at 231 S. Bemiston in Clayton. Some commissioners attended via Zoom and livestreamed to the Boundary Commission's YouTube channel.

ROLL IS CALLED – QUORUM DECLARED

Roll was called and a quorum declared by Ms. Dougherty.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. Wegert made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Pluemer seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Mooney made a motion to approve the minutes of March 29, 2023. Ms. Pluemer seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Dougherty shared that the Commission is on track. She remarked that the Professional Services category is a little high for the first quarter because the legal services bill was higher than normal. This was explained as relating to all the meetings and Manchester annexation work in January.

Mr. Wegert asked about the \$12,000 in municipality fee account. Ms. Dougherty explained to the Commission about the fees municipalities submit along with their proposals and their certifications to cover the cost of covering the proposal. Chairman Uchitelle commented on the estimated year-end being less than the budget which would put the Commission in very good shape.

Mr. O'Rourke asked where the Commission derived its revenues. Ms. Dougherty and others explained how St. Louis County is required statutorily to support the Commission and the cities submit annexation fees when they submit a proposal. They explained that the Commission doesn't generate revenue on its own. Mr. O'Rourke asked if the

municipality fee account is in an interest-bearing account. Ms. Dougherty said she didn't know.

Mr. Uchitelle asked what sort of financial controls the Commission has regarding the funds. Ms. Dougherty said she doesn't write checks; she processes everything through the county and follows all the requirements the county has laid out.

## REPORTS

Ms. Dougherty stated she didn't have too much more to add to her staff report that was in their packet except they've made significant progress on the Commissioner account function on the web site.

Mr. Wegert said he was having some issues with his commission email account. Ms. Dougherty said there'd been some weird things with GoDaddy but she'd look into it. Ms. Dougherty reminded the commissioners that she'll be gone the month of June. She said she was working with Lori Buckner to take care of any bills that show up that need to be paid.

Chairman Uchitelle asked about skipping the month of June and if they would be in compliance with the number of meetings the by-laws require. Ms. Dougherty said the by-laws require the commission to meet at least 6 times per year and May will be the sixth meeting of 2023. The Commission decided to skip June and resume its meetings in July.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

## NEW BUSINESS

A. Closed Session.

There was no closed session.

## OLD BUSINESS

A. BC2301 City of Normandy & Village of Glen Echo Park Consolidation proposal.

Mr. Wegert made a motion to APPROVE the consolidation between Normandy and Glen Echo Park. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion.

Chairman Uchitelle opened the floor for discussion on the Normandy and Glen Echo Park consolidation.

Chairman Uchitelle asked if the Commission had received any additional comments. Ms. Dougherty stated nothing additional to what was already in their packet.

Mr. Schneider said he felt it was a win-win-win for everyone and that he hoped they would get the vote out and get it going. Mr. Mooney said he supported the consolidation. Mr. Schneider encouraged that both communities don't take the vote for granted and to work to get the vote out in August.

Ms. Pluemer had no comments to add to the discussion.

Mr. O'Rourke stated he'd read through all the documents and the proposal and felt it was a good thing.

Mr. Wegert stated this was a perfect example of what the smaller communities could be doing and how the Commission supports this.

There was no further discussion.

Roll Call Vote

Tom Mooney – Y

Steve O’Rourke – Y

Ann Pluemer – Y

Tom Schneider – Y

Ben Uchitelle – Y

Steve Wegert – Y

Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

Chairman Uchitelle asked Ms. Dougherty if there’d been any other nibbles out there regarding consolidations among the municipalities. She replied that she hadn’t heard from anyone else. She shared that she’d sent a letter to all the municipalities, St. Louis County and the Municipal League about the upcoming map plan submittal period and the ability to sign up for a municipality account on the website. She said she’d send another reminder letter in the fall.

Chairman Uchitelle asked if the Commission should publicize that they’ve approved this consolidation. Ms. Dougherty stated that STLPR and the Post are both following proposals on the Commission’s website, so they’ll be notified when those proposals are updated. Mr. O’Rourke asked if the Commission publicizes their decisions and why they came to those conclusions. Ms. Dougherty said that the normal process is that the meeting after a vote, the Commission approves the Summary of Decision which explains the Commission’s reasoning behind its decision to approve or disapprove a proposal. She said Mr. Hart would be working on that document for the Commission to approve at the May meeting. That document then will be sent to the Election board along with the map of the combined area for use in the election documentation.

Chairman Uchitelle asked if it made sense to contact Tony Messenger at the Post to alert him to the decision. Mr. Schneider commented that he didn’t feel that was the role of the Commission to communicate in that manner with the post. He suggested the Commission sends an FYI about the decision to the Municipal League. Ms. Dougherty replied that the standard practice is to mail the Summary of Decision to the County Executive, the County Council, the Municipal League, and to the proposing city or cities.

Ms. Dougherty responded she didn’t see it as the Commission’s responsibility to solicit behavior from municipalities. Chairman Uchitelle wondered if it would spark residents in other small cities to consolidate as well if they knew about the successful merger of city X and city Y. Ms. Dougherty replied that she felt organizations like Beyond Housing are very well-versed in helping communities learn about and effect consolidations.

Mr. Wegert said these consolidation efforts do seem to percolate out to the appropriate personnel at the various municipalities.

Mr. O'Rourke asked about the letter of support for the consolidation from David Stokes of the Show-Me Institute. Ms. Dougherty replied that the organization was behind the "Better Together" effort from a few years ago. And stated it was the first time they'd shown interest in the Commission's work. Mr. O'Rourke stated he felt since it's not the role of the Commission to promote consolidation efforts to let other organizations encourage such actions among the municipalities.

B. Sunshine/FOIA Requests Policy on Fees

Mr. Hart said he was working on finalizing the draft. He stated he would prepare it with the suggested changes and share it ahead of the May meeting. Chairman Uchitelle asked who was on the subcommittee. Those members are Tom Mooney and Tom Schneider and they agreed with what Mr. Hart had proposed. It was decided to defer discussion to the May 2023 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wegert made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Pluemer seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Dougherty  
Executive Director

Approved: May 23, 2023