

BOUNDARY COMMISSION
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2023

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: None

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 6:32 p.m. in the first-floor conference room at 231 S. Bemiston in Clayton. One commissioner attended via Zoom and the meeting was 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. Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2023. Mr. Wegert seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

REPORTS

Ms. Dougherty reminded everyone that they should have received an email from her about their new Commissioner Account on the Boundary Commission website. Commissioners responded they'd seen the email, some had clicked on it, and others still needed to check it out. Ms. Dougherty explained that she was excited to be bringing this additional level of functionality to the website and access to information for the Commissioners. She asked for any suggestions on information the Commissioners might want included on the Commissioner Account page. Ms. Dougherty stated there have been good responses to the mailing regarding Map Plan submittals and signing up for a Municipality Account.

Ms. Dougherty responded to Chairman Uchitelle's inquiry about Subscriber Count. She explained that was the number of subscribers to the Commission's YouTube channel.

Chairman Uchitelle asked for more clarification on her conversation with Pat Kelly of the Municipal League on the consolidation process. Chairman Uchitelle asked if Mr. Kelly

had indicated what cities were looking into consolidating. Ms. Dougherty replied that although Mr. Kelly had told her which cities were thinking about it, he'd asked that she not make any public statements about it at this time.

Chairman Uchitelle asked about the office preparations for Ms. Dougherty's upcoming vacation. She replied that the steps she's taken have included: directions on the website and the phone message to have those with needs to talk with Mike Hart. She is also working with Lori Buckner of St. Louis County to handle any bills that might come in and to do the purchasing card reconciliation for June.

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. – Summary of Decision

Mr. Hart explained that the Summary of Decision accurately describes the information provided to the Commission at the public hearing, in the proposal, and any additional information requested by the Commission.

Mr. Wegert made a motion to APPROVE the Summary of Decision for BC2301 Normandy and Glen Echo Park Consolidation. Mr. O'Rourke seconded the motion.

Mr. Mooney had a question about the taxes listed on page 4. Mr. Hart explained that the different rates are because they are real property and personal property tax rates. Mr. Mooney asked why sometimes it is listed as a percentage and other times it is not. Mr. Hart replied it was that way because it was how Normandy and Glen Echo Park had presented it in their proposal. Mr. Mooney thanked Mr. Hart and withdrew his question.

Mr. Schneider reiterated his encouragement to the cities to not take it for granted that it will pass at the ballot box. He suggested they talk with Vinita Park to ask what they did because they were successful.

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

B. Sunshine/FOIA Requests Policy on Fees

Mr. Hart highlighted that as a governmental body it is important to have the policy. He said the policy follows the statute and adds the disclaimer that if anyone submits anything to the commission it will be subject to the sunshine law. Mr. O'Rourke asked if there was a mechanism for someone submitting

something to the commission for it to remain confidential. Mr. Hart said that everything submitted would be considered an open record. However, there is a method to submit a request to the Commission to keep something confidential that would then be decided by the Commission to either agree with the request or to rule against it.

Mr. Wegert said that the reason for the review of the policy was to determine the fees for copies and research and more related to Sunshine Requests and that the rest of the document basically followed the state statute for the Sunshine Law. Mr. Hart agreed with Mr. Wegert. Mr. O'Rourke complimented Mr. Hart on the comprehensive nature of the policy.

Mr. Wegert made a motion to approve the proposed Sunshine/FOIA Requests Policy. Mr. O'Rourke seconded the motion. Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

Chairman Uchitelle asked for an update on the Manchester annexation. Ms. Dougherty replied that the vote will be in November. If it passes, then it will take effect six months later. Mr. Wegert asked what happens to our approval if the election doesn't take place by November. Ms. Dougherty said that would be a great project for Mr. Hart to research.

Mr. Schneider asked what sort of press release the Commission has put out about the approval of the Normandy and Glen Echo consolidation. Mr. Wegert reminded the group that several members of the press follow the commission on its website.

Ms. Dougherty stated that it wasn't the practice of the Commission to publicize its decisions. Ms. Pluemer added that it isn't the Commission's story to tell. Mr. O'Rourke agreed that it should be publicized by the press, the County, the Municipal League, and the proposing agents.

Mr. Wegert stated he feels it is not the Commission's responsibility to publicize its decisions. Mr. Schneider disagreed and said he feels this is important work and people should know about it.

Ms. Dougherty stated that all the information about decisions and minutes and more is on the website.

Chairman Uchitelle said to add this discussion to the July agenda.

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 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Dougherty
Executive Director

Approved: July 25, 2023