

Summary of Minutes

LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICT REVISION COMMISSION COMMITTEE

October 13, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Majority Leader Brew called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Brew (Majority Leader), Joshua Bauroth (Assistant Minority Leader), Lisa Polito Nicolay (Board of Elections), Jackie Ortiz (Board of Elections)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Joe Carbone (Legislature President)

OTHERS PRESENT: David Grant (Legislature Clerk), Bridget Harvey (Chief of Staff - Majority Office), Rick Milne (Mayor - Honeoye Falls)

Majority Leader Brew welcomed all of those in attendance and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked the Mendon Fire Department for use of the facility and stated that this was the first public hearing of the Redistricting Commission.

He further stated that the purpose was to receive public input on the process of redistricting. He also stated that the public forum format would be very similar to how the public forum is conducted during Monroe County Legislature meetings. He explained that the Commission is gathering information from data census and public input, and that a determination would then be made once this information is collected in regards to the lines and boundaries for the districts.

Majority Leader Brew also indicated that the public could submit comments in writing to the Clerk of the Legislature or by email to: redistricting@monroecounty.gov. He then reiterated the locations for the next two public meetings as follows: Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers, Room 406, County Office Building and Friday, October 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hamlin Town Hall, 1658 Lake Road, Hamlin, New York.

He then stated that the redistricting plan would be adopted as a local law, and that public would have the opportunity to comment on the proposed plan as part of the official public hearing before its adoption. Majority Leader Brew explained that the Commission's responsibility was to make a recommendation after the three official public hearings were held to the Full Legislature. Before the beginning of the public hearing, Legislator Bauroth asked Majority Leader Brew to allow longer public comment because of the number of speakers signed up to speak and in attendance, Majority Leader Brew agreed.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Dave Garretson spoke in regards to the purpose of the Commission and indicated that it was imperative for the Commission to listen to the people. He also asked where the notices were posted. He also asked why there wasn't a zoom option or camera recording of the meeting. He also asked where the Commission Chairman was. He also had a suggestion to not divide communities when drawing the lines.

Barbara Grosh spoke in regards to the purpose of the Commission and indicated that the process is making it hard for people to have input. She asked for the Commission to hold more meetings. She indicated that she is the president of the League of Women Voters. She asked that the Commission take communities of interest seriously and minimize splitting neighborhoods. She also asked that the Commission release the maps as soon as possible and to allow time for revision. She also asked for the Commission to publicize the next hearing extensively.

Legislator Bauroth asked to keep the meeting open until 7:30 p.m. in case there were any late arriving public hearing speakers. Majority Leader Brew and the rest of the Commission agreed.

A third public hearing attendee made a suggestion to not allow any gerrymandering during the redistricting process.

DRAFT

A total of four speakers addressed the Commission and ended at 7:31 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Majority Leader Brew referenced the public comment emails received by the Clerk of the Legislature to the redistricting@monroecounty.gov address and asked the Clerk to read each email submission to the Commission members. Legislator Bauroth also asked for the email submissions to be recorded into the record.

ADJOURNMENT:

Majority Leader Brew thanked the Commission and the Mendon Fire Department for their hospitality and adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m. The next Legislative Redistrict Commission Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Legislature Chambers, Room 406, County Office Building, 39 West Main Street, Rochester, NY** and **Friday, October 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hamlin Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Grant
Clerk of the Legislature

Grant, David K

From: Nicolay, Lisa P
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 6:41 PM
To: Grant, David K
Subject: Fwd: District 7 and District 26 | Redistricting Commission Members

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
[Get Outlook for Android](#)

From: Jonathan W. Hardin <mrjhardin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:20:15 AM
To: legislatorcarbone@gmail.com <legislatorcarbone@gmail.com>; lnicolay@monroecounty.gov <lnicolay@monroecounty.gov>; Jackie Ortiz Ortiz <jackieortiz@monroecounty.gov>; legislatorbrew@gmail.com <legislatorbrew@gmail.com>; Josh Bauroth <jpbauorth@yahoo.com>
Subject: District 7 and District 26 | Redistricting Commission Members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside Monroe County systems. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

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Redistricting Commission Members,

The Charlotte community demands that District 7 be redrawn to NOT include the neighborhood of Charlotte in the City of Rochester, and District 26 should include that neighborhood. This was discussed at our most recent Charlotte Community Association meeting. Our community deserves one County Legislator, and Mr. Marianetti has failed to represent the northern portion of our neighborhood and hasn't communicated with the non-profit neighborhood groups in the area in years. He refuses to return phone calls and e-mails and seems to not be interested in our community.

The development in Charlotte, the Port and Ontario Beach Park is too important to our region to have a representative that doesn't communicate with the neighborhood leaders. We have been for years trying to work with our local leaders on smart development for our community, and we deserve better. We most urgently deserve upgrades to the Roger Robach Community Center.

Not only that, but we ask that District 26 be extended to Lake Ontario and Beach Avenue to give Charlotte one representative. The current and past Legislator of District 26 has always been in communication with all the residents of Charlotte, and this is what our community deserves. One legislator that represents the entire community and we can confirm that District 26 has our back.

Thank you,

Jonathan W. Hardin he/him/his  
55 Hewitt Street  
Rochester, New York 14612  
(585) 953-6833 cell phone

## **Testimony to the Monroe County Redistricting Committee**

Oct. 13, 2021

Barbara Grosh

President, League of Women Voters of the Rochester

Metropolitan Area

53 Peaceful Harbor Lane

Webster, NY 14580

(585)415-8251

president@lwv-rma.org

My name is Barbara Grosh. I live in Penfield. I am the president of the League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area. The League is a nonpartisan organization. We neither endorse parties and candidates nor oppose them. Our primary purpose is to help citizens be knowledgeable and informed voters.

Tonight, I'd like to address the processes the Redistricting Commission is following. We believe that the process under way in Monroe County is making it hard for citizens to have effective input. I have seven points where the League sees problems with the process.

1. **What's the hurry?** The county charter allows 6 months from the time of appointment of the redistricting commission to the time of completion of their work. Use of the full six months would allow a fully transparent and participatory process with informed input from the public. New districts don't need to be in place until early 2023.

There is no hurry.

2. **Poorly publicized hearings aren't good enough.** The dates and places for the hearings are not to be found on the county website. The locations of two of the three hearings are remote. I had to email repeatedly to the Clerk of the Legislature to find out the locations. I had to make repeated phone calls to get on the speaking schedule. Public hearings need to be publicized.
3. **Hold more meetings.** Over these next three nights, you will hear from a few determined citizens. They will point out problems with current districts and ask for changes. Some of their points will be easy to address, some will have little merit, and some will be difficult because of the multiple and sometimes conflicting requirements for districts. You will only be able to make use of public input if you have a meeting in which to discuss it. The County Charter requires that the Commission have both Democrats and Republicans, and you should conduct your business at meetings of the whole commission. These meetings should be announced in advance so that members of the public can attend.
4. **Take seriously the concept of communities of interest.** Here I have a map showing the neighborhoods in Rochester, I was given by a former county official. Most of these neighborhoods have organizations to help citizens build their communities, including by working with city

and county government. When these communities of interest get divided up into multiple districts, it makes it hard for them to develop relationships with their representatives. I urge you to minimize splitting up these neighborhoods as you draw the district lines.

5. **When you release the draft maps, make them truly accessible.** Software is readily available to put the district maps online so that voters can scrutinize them, looking themselves up to see what district they fall in, see where the map cut through their neighborhood and scrutinize the degree to which the districts may be gerrymandered for partisan political purposes or to stifle the political effectiveness of some citizens, especially along racial or ethnic lines. I hope and urge that you release the maps in such a form and make the link available on the county website and allow at least a 3-4 week period for the public to scrutinize, discuss and understand them.
6. **Publicize the next hearings.** You are required by law to hold a public hearing after the proposed map has been released. Publicize the hearing widely. Hearings are only public if the public is informed about them.
7. **Allow time for revision.** You are required to hold hearings to get public feedback, and you should consider that feedback. If you do not undertake any revisions in response to public hearings, you are flouting the intentions of the County Charter.

# NEIGHBORHOODS OF ROCHESTER

## AND HOW THEY GOT THEIR NAMES

1. 14621

For the area zipcode, which also covers parts of Irondequoit. Includes the old Carthage settlement (named for the ancient capital), a rival development to Rochester.

2. 19TH WARD

Sygone designation leftover when city planners organized the land tracts by wards.

3. ABC STREETS

The unique naming structure of the common streets: famous scientists, artists, and discoverers, in alphabetical order from A-H.

4. AZALEA

For Azalea Rd., which was originally part of the Mount Hope Nursery. Area was formerly known as Highland Park Terrace.

5. BEECHWOOD

After a local post office and Beech-Nut Foods, known for Five-Stripe gum and baby foods.

6. BROWNCROFT

After the Brown Brothers Continental Nursery, which made up most of the area.

7. BROWN SQUARE

For the first public park in Rochester, so named for Matthew and Francis Brown, who owned and developed the tract.

8. BULL'S HEAD

For the Bull's Head Tavern, an early 1800s tavern that serviced cattle ranchers.

9. COBBS HILL

For Gideon Cobb, an early settler and original owner of the land.

10. CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Some names are a matter of utility. Also known as Center City.

11. CHARLOTTE

Colonel Robert Troup, one of the early developers who laid out the city plan of Charlottesburgh, named it for his daughter.

12. CORN HILL

For the corn fields that boat captains used as a nautical landmark.

13. CUE

For the streets Culver, University, and East Culver. University, a prominent developer, University for the second home of University of Rochester, and East for it's on compared to city center.

14. OLIVER MERCHANTS

Known as The Triangle for its shape, named for streets Culver, for Oliver Culver, a prominent developer, and Merchants for its commercial use.

15. DUTCHTOWN

A corruption of Deutschtown, for the concentration of German immigrants.

16. EDGERTON

For Edgerton Park, originally a multi-sport indoor arena built in 1892, now a recreation center with athletic fields and park, so named for H.H. Edgerton, former mayor.

17. EMMA

For East Main St., Mustard St., and Atlantic Avenue. Mustard St. for the former entrance to RT French's Mustard Factory, and Atlantic for the ocean.

18. GENESEE JEFFERSON

For Genesee and Jefferson Streets. Genesee for the river, from a Seneca word meaning Pleasant Valley, and Jefferson for President Thomas Jefferson.

19. HIGH FALLS

Named for the nearby Upper Falls.

20. HIGHLAND PARK

For the Frederick Law Olmsted designed park within the area. Formerly Elwanger-Barry, for George Elwanger and Patrick Barry, founders of Mount Hope Nursery, one time world's largest.

21. HOMESTEAD HEIGHTS

Named after the Goodman St. Homestead Building Association. Also known as Bensonhurst, so named for the neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY.

22. JOSANA

Jay and Orchard Street Area. Neighborhood Association. Jay Street is so named for John Jay.

23. LILAC

For the flowering shrub that has become synonymous with Rochester thanks to John Dunbar and Bernard H. Slavin.

24. LINCOLN PARK

Named by Dyer Dayton Stanley Brown of Scottsville, the original land developer, for Abraham Lincoln. Also known as UNIT (United Neighbors in it Together).

25. LOCK 66

For an Erie Canal lock, when the canal traveled through the city, not south of it.

28, 29. MARKETVIEW HEIGHTS NORTH/SOUTH

Named for the Rochester Public Market (second home).

30. MAYORS HEIGHTS

For a forgotten former Mayor of Rochester. Also known as COTS (Changing Of The Scenes), for the variety and age of buildings. Once known as Chocolate City, for it's many brown buildings.

31. NOTA

Neighborhood Of The Arts, a 1990s reimagining of the area as a creative destination. Formerly Atlantic-University, Atlantic Ave., for the ocean, and University Ave., for the University Of Rochester.

32. NORTH EDGE

Also known as Northland-Lycium. Strangely, Northland St. travels east-west, and there was never a school on Lycium St. Formerly known as Goat's Hill.

36. PEARL MEIGS MONROE

For Pearl St., Meigs St., and Monroe Ave. Meigs St. so named for Return J. Meigs, Jr., former Post Master General, and Monroe Ave for President James Monroe.

37. PLEX

For Plymouth Ave and Exchange St. Plymouth for the Congregational Church founded on that street, and Exchange for it being the site of an interurban trolley station.

38. SOUTH WEDGE

For the geometric shape of the area.

39. SUSAN B. ANTHONY

For the neighborhood's most famous resident, who shared a home with her sister Mary.

40. SWILLBURG

Former Mt. of George Goebels pig farm.

41. UPPER FALLS

More accurately named for the natural feature nearby. Formerly known as Butter Bowl/Butter Hole, for the abundance of dairy farms in the area.

42. UPPER MONROE

For Monroe Avenue, so named for President James Monroe.

43. UPPER MOUNT HOPE

For Mount Hope Avenue, so named by City Council, while also giving the cemetery of the same name.

44. WADSWORTH SQUARE

For a public commons in the area of the same name, which is so named for General James Wadsworth, who was the first landowner and developer of the area.

A. DURAND-EASTMAN PARK

For Dr. Henry S. Durand and George Eastman, original landowners of the area.

B. GREATER ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Originally called Britton Field, for the early pioneer family who owned the land.

C. GENESEE VALLEY PARK

For the Genesee River, so named from the Seneca word meaning Pleasant Valley.

D. UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Named for Nathaniel Rochester, city founder.

33. NORTH WINTON VILLAGE

For Winton Road, so named for Winton Motor Carriage Company, a prominent 1900s automobile manufacturer.

34. PARK CENTRAL

For Park Avenue, so named for the Union Horse Racing Track, a driving park owned by James Vick.

35. PARK MEIGS

For Park Avenue, so named for the Union Horse Racing Track, a driving park owned by local developer James Vick. Meigs for Meigs St., so named for Return J. Meigs, Jr., Post Master General of the US at the time.

26. L'YELL OTIS

For L'Yell Ave., named for the Gates leader who oversaw it's work, and for Otis St., named for General Elwell Stephen Otis, an Army general war veteran.

27. MAPLEWOOD

For Maplewood Park, renamed from Maple Grove, an old resort area, so named for the abundance of maple trees.