

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 3:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022, AT THE BONNIE NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 W. LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Chairperson Trustee Joyce Harant, Vice Chair Trustee Laurie Covington, Trustee Timothy Bertschy (v) (*disconnected at 5:00 pm*), Trustee Alex Sierra, and President Robert Johnson (*left at 4:00 pm*)
(v) = attended virtually via Zoom

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill (v), Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Mike Friberg, Mike Miller, JD Russell, Brent Wheeler, and Alicia Woodworth
(v) = attended virtually via Zoom

OTHERS: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Joyce Harant called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. MINUTES

3.A. Approval of April 5, 2022 Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Laurie Covington moved to approve the minutes from April 5, 2022. Motion seconded by Chairperson Joyce Harant and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Emily Cahill reported the status of the action items given at the 4.5.22 meeting shown below.

-Analyze viability of revising redistricting map to move Donovan Park into Northern District AND move North Valley into Central District.

To be presented and discussed during today's meeting.

-Trewyn Park Updates: Gather public input and provide updates to Board throughout the process. Current efforts to include boosted post on Facebook, Trewyn School voting, Early Head Start at Trewyn voting, SCUC on 4/16, feedback from HISRA staff and users.

This process was completed with the Planning Committee's and the DEI Committee's input.

-Contact City of Peoria to inquire about rumor that RiverPlex is to be torn down, Gateway being sold.

Emily Cahill contacted City Manager Patrick Urich and he assured her there were no plans associated with the RiverPlex on behalf of the city. The city recently gathered

information for required reporting for another governmental body. As has been reported, the Gateway Building is being considered as a potential station for a possible Amtrak train system. The District does have some concerns about this and is having conversations concerning the impact the train station will have on festivals. with the City of Peoria and others concerning this. The District will report any new developments.

-Mineral Rights of parcel near airport: Contact Attorney Streeter and counteroffer Aldi's request with 20-year stay.

Mike Friberg will address this today during Other Business.

-Request placement on distribution list for Springdale Cemetery Authority minutes so that minutes can be added to communications on Board agendas.

Trustee Joyce Harant facilitated this item and has been completed. The meeting minutes of the last Springdale Authority meeting were provided at the last Board meeting on 4.20.22.

-Deactivate Jim Stuttle as PPD representative on Springdale Cemetery Authority Board per new IGA.

The District will work with President Johnson to do this and to recognize Mr. Stuttle for his contributions at the next Board meeting on 5.25.22.

-Give consensus to Bob Hoffer that PPD is honored to be recognized on the Moffatt Memorial signage.

Matt Freeman completed this and the project continues to proceed.

-Proceed with FRC short-term lease with Goodwill for summer 2022.

Scott Loftus received notice today that Goodwill received their grant dollars for this project. The District will work with them to finalize the short-term lease agreement.

-Provide minutes from Board vote regarding Columbus Statue to all trustees for review and determination of next steps including contact with West Bluff leadership.

This will be discussed in today's meeting. The minutes from the noted Board vote were provided.

-Ask City of Peoria about viability of urban forestry collaboration at Harrison School site.
This item will be discussed in today's meeting.

-Clarify Trustee Bertschy's idea regarding renaming of Donovan/Donovan Arboretum.
Trustee Harant stated this will be postponed for now.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.A. Parks Division – Monthly Work Order Report

Matt Freeman presented the April Closed Work Order Report for everyone's review. Please see Attachment A.

4.B. Environmental Policy Revision

Mike Miller stated that last fall the Environmental Policy was reintroduced to the Board for their review. That policy was originally written in 1993. At that Board meeting, the Trustees expressed a desire to update the policy to better reflect current environmental issues i.e., contributing factors to climate change, environmental degradation, species loss, etc. Many of the categories, goals and pillars of the original 1993 policy are still very relevant. Several strategic planning sessions and meetings were held during the first quarter of this year to modernize and update the policy. What is being presented today is the updated Environmental Policy. *Please see Attachments B and C.* This will provide transparency, accountability and most importantly, it will be a great inspiration for staff to be the best stewards of the environment we can be. There are five specific categories, each with specific goals that are not in any particular order of priority. They are:

Category #1 – Protection of the Biosphere. To safeguard the biodiversity of our region by maintaining quality and diverse habitats in land managed by the Peoria Park District through conservation, preservation, and restoration.

Category #2 – Environmental Education and Interpretation. To provide citizens with knowledge, awareness and appreciation of our natural heritage, its relationship to the District's mission, and its enjoyment through low impact recreation.

Category #3 – Conservation of Energy. To invest in improved energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and conservation in operations.

Category #4 – Use of Environmentally Sensitive and Safe Products. To use products which are safe and effective, and which minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Category #5 – Reduction of Waste. To minimize the creation of waste, especially hazardous waste, and whenever possible to recycle materials and use recycled materials. To dispose of wastes through safe and responsible methods.

Trustee Sierra stated he would like to see in Category #1 not only maintaining quality and diverse habitats but also introducing quality and diverse habitats. He stated that there are several areas throughout the community that have experienced a variety of developments to the point where now another district would never see any preserved protected space because it does not have any natural urban prairie and forestry. Trustee Sierra stated that as we think about development he would love to see that embedded somewhere. Mike Miller stated that although it may not be specifically articulated in the Environmental Policy, the District is currently doing just that. For example, the District created 12 acres of prairie at Donovan Park where none previously existed. The District may always communicate that in the context of habitat creation as opposed to habitat restoration, however, Mr. Miller stated he would add this as a Category #1 goal.

Trustee Harant prefaced her comments by saying she has been immersed in the climate issue for a number of years. She thanks staff for everything in the policy and thinks it's very good, however, she believes the policy needs to have a stronger message. By reading the policy, she would not know we are in a climate crisis and thinks the policy seems somewhat passive. It should have a statement of need with priorities. For example; the District could make statements like "we as a Park District have the goal of becoming carbon free." The statement should convey to the public this is very important and that we have an accelerated way to approach implementing practices like solar energy. If the Park District could set the tone for this urgency, then we could go to the city and county and be able to explain why it's important for them to become engaged in sustainability. Mike Miller stated that Category #3 goal f states "implement steps to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the District through carbon fuel reduction strategies by focusing efforts on reduction of fossil fuel usage for transportation, ground maintenance, and building controls" may address this with the action steps. Trustee Harant stated she would like to see it say "elimination of fossil fuel usage ..." rather than "reduce the overall ..." She would like to see wording that the plan is driven by the climate crisis. Brent Wheeler asked if it would be enough to have a statement at the beginning of the document stating why the District feels all the categories, goals and steps are important in order to reflect the urgency of the issue. Trustee Harant thinks it would help and to also state the priorities and action steps for the next five years.

Trustee Sierra stated that understanding where we are currently at would help us all to understand where we are heading and that would make it more comprehensible. For example, the goal of reducing our carbon footprint would be better understood if we knew where it currently stands and where we are heading. People need to understand why certain things are important and why it matters.

Implementing comments made today, the Environmental Policy will be presented to the Board for their review and comments at the 5.25.22 meeting..

4.E. Bradley Park – Columbus Statue Site Discussion

Per President Johnson's request, this agenda item was discussed out of the original agenda order. Trustee Harant stated that there have been discussions about whether the District should revisit the Columbus statue site issue again and engage with the Uplands West Bluff Council. Planning Committee and Board meeting minutes from last year stated the District would revisit the topic and that's what she'd like to do at this time. President Johnson received an email from the President of the West Bluff Council, Conrad Stinnett, stating the West Bluff Council would like to see a replacement piece of art in the place where the Columbus statue once stood. Trustee Harant asked President if he had initiated a conversation with Mr. Stinnett resulting in the email sent to him. President Johnson stated no, he did not initiate any conversations. In Mr. Stinnett's email, he is requesting a committee be formed consisting of the PPD Board of Trustees and staff along with residents of the Uplands to define what exact art would be placed in Bradley Park. Emily Cahill stated that staff and the Board need to have a conversation about a policy regarding artwork opportunities, what kind of resources the District would be willing to allocate, and what kind of resources the District would be required of the

private entity. The District needs to have that strategy outside of the conversation with members of the Uplands community. She would like the District to have some sort of policy about the kinds of art the District wants to support in addition to having clear guidelines put in place about the role of public dollars in any of these kinds of situations so that it's not just specific to this location, but the District as a whole to have a consistent process for handling these types of requests. Trustee Harant agreed that this should be done, noting that Emily had made that statement a couple of years ago, pre COVID as well. Trustee Covington agreed. President Johnson read the email he received from Conrad Stinnett on Friday, April 29, 2022 as follows:

Dear President Johnson,

This is regarding the request of the Uplands Residential Association and the West Bluff Council for the Peoria Park District to replace the removed Columbus status with another piece of art. While the West Bluff Council is highly supportive of the Uplands residents to have artwork in Bradley Park, we do realize that neighborhood's request needs definition and some planning. Therefore, I request that a committee be formed, consisting of Peoria Park District Board of Trustees members and staff, with residents of the Uplands, to define what exact art would be placed in the park and to work out logistics. I believe current Uplands president J.R. Hinchee and Uplands resident Bernard Goitein, Ph.D should be on the committee, along with other residents they feel would be appropriate. You, of course, would select appropriate persons to represent the Park District. The West Bluff Council would like to be updated on the progress of this issue, from time to time. I strongly believe this proposed committee would be able to deal with the issue in an effective manner that would be win-win for all concerned. Conrad Stinnett, President, West Bluff Council

Trustee Harant stated that perhaps the best way to approach this is to have a policy created and in place that would address this, before forming a committee or engaging with the community about the placement of art.

President Johnson stated he would like to work with the Uplands and West Bluff residents on this. Trustee Harant stated that Emily's proposal is a two-step process. 1) Have a larger strategy for how the District would handle this type of request and 2) Use that structure to process this request that's specific to Bradley Park. This structure/process would allow the District to honor the District's priorities and commitments and work with the citizens in each case in a consistent manner. Citizens would then know what to expect and the District would know the rules and guidelines to be upheld. Emily would like to have an internal conversation about what the District's policy is regarding artwork opportunities, what kind of resources the District would be willing to allocate to this, and what kind of resources the District would be required of the private entity. Then, use that structure to engage the Uplands about the Bradley Park location.

Trustee Harant asked the Committee if there was consensus that the District will develop this policy first, and, in the meantime, tell the Uplands that the District will develop a general policy addressing this and after the policy is created, we will form a committee with them to talk about the site where the statue once stood. Emily Cahill stated that in a case where the final vote of the Board was that the District would agree to remove the Christopher Columbus statue and

return the area to green space, there needs to be a process where the Board votes to say yes to put art back in that space. Then communicate that vote by the Board to the Uplands so they can proceed with acquiring replacement art within the confines of the newly-created policy. Laurie Covington made a motion to have the Planning Committee develop a policy to present to the full Board and upon the Board's approval, the Planning Committee and staff will engage conversations with the West Bluff Council and any other interested parties. Becky Fredrickson stated this new policy would be specific to artwork in a public property. Trustee Joyce Harant seconded the motion and carried on unanimous voice vote.

4.C. Redistricting Map Discussion

Mike Friberg presented three proposed maps of the southern district boundaries. *Please see Attachment D.*

Map S3 shows the original proposed southern district. This map eliminates the "hammerhead" of the 2010 redistricting, and consolidates the north valley and a small portion of the east bluff to form a compact district that meets our goals of a .04% variance from the ideal distribution, and a minority percentage of 66.6%. This is the same map presented at the first presentation on February 1.

Per Trustee requests, Mr. Friberg attempted to remake the southern district to keep the north valley north of I-74 in the central voting district, rather than the southern district.

Map S4 (which is not provided) incorporated all of the east bluff to I-74. This configuration exceeded the restriction of a 5% from ideal distribution by a significant margin, thus was deemed unacceptable. Incorporating the West Bluff, Moss/Bradley, Cottage District, etc. in their entirety into the southern district is not possible at this time due to population numbers.

Map S5 uses I-74 for the northeast boundary of the District, and then uses the city's District 1-2 dividing line using University, West Main, and Bradley University as a dividing line. This proposal meets the variance goals with a 2.4% variance from ideal, and also our minority majority goal with a percentage of 60.7%. This district is also compact and contiguous.

Map S6 attempts to resolve two competing Trustee requests: keeping the North Valley as part of the central district, and maintaining the east bluff in the southern district. This proposal meets our variance goals with a 1.2% variance, and also maintains a strong minority percentage of 65.6%. However, this proposal is not very compact and contiguous. This proposal is problematic for the same reasons the City First District is problematic. Contiguous-ness is maintained only through a narrow corridor less than two blocks wide (through OSF hospital) connecting the south side to the east bluff.

The "hammerhead" of the 2010 voting maps was a necessary but unpleasant compromise required to make a minority majority southern voting district. It was not compact, and by all accounts it was confusing and ignored neighborhood and community boundaries. With

population movement, it is now possible to create a compact district that meets our legal obligations, as well as our secondary priorities.

The southern district has the most restrictions; thus, it needs to be finalized before moving on to proposing the boundary between central and northern districts.

Trustee Alex Sierra asked Mr. Friberg to talk everyone through the pros and cons of each map. Mr. Friberg stated he thinks map S3 is the most contiguous. I-74 makes a huge difference but downtown forms that block as well. The central district is so vast that there are many neighborhoods that are vastly different within the central district.

Trustee Sierra stated he has concerns about all of the maps presented today as they relate to the southern district. He feels map S3 does not provide adequate representation and advocacy, specifically the number of parks and landmarks this map includes with the southern district like Springdale Cemetery, Glen Oak Park, Morton Square Park, etc. He understands that historically, Trustees had been at-large but since the 1986 class action lawsuit, district representatives were created for a specific reason. After speaking with one of the plaintiffs of that lawsuit, Joyce Banks, in Trustee Sierra's opinion, it was not only for population representation, it was for parks and landmarks as well and that is his concern with this map. He would not want one Trustee to have to represent too many parks and landmarks within their district.

Trustee Sierra stated that his concern with map S5 is that for the past 3 elections, approximately 1,000 voters turned out. He's not comfortable that a large area of the district could control a single candidate and control the entire district that is not adequately represented. Mr. Friberg stated that is why the East Bluff has always been the defining landmark. Trustee Sierra stated he could not in good faith support this map knowing there is a strong possibility of one area of a potential district controlling the entire election.

Trustee Sierra stated that his concern with map S6 is that the East Bluff, in his opinion, is the second most distressed area in the city of Peoria. The Northern Valley is also a distressed area in the city of Peoria. This map includes the two highest distressed communities in a single district and that does not make him feel comfortable. It debunks the argument of ensuring that all the constituents in a single district have adequate representation.

Much discussion took place concerning adequate representation and in particular, the Latinx Hispanic community which is a growing population in all districts, but particularly in the central district.

Emily Cahill stated this is a fantastic conversation but she wants to be sure we refocus on what the guidelines are for redistricting. She asked Mike Friberg to remind everyone of the benchmarks and purpose for the redistricting that were explained in the first meeting in February. Mr. Friberg stated that redistricting requires that representative districts should be compact, contiguous and substantially equal in population. In addition, we have to maintain a

minority majority. Going forward, we are looking for consensus on the southern district mapping so that we can move on to the central/northern boundary.

Through discussion, consensus was made to present maps S3 and S6 to the Board at the May 25 Finance Committee Board of the Whole meeting for discussion and direction. Mike Friberg will do more research for any additional information to aid in this process.

Trustee Bertschy asked if the District has sought public input about these maps and that maybe it would make sense for the District to conduct a public input session. Mike Friberg stated the District has never done that before. Trustee Covington stated that the City of Peoria tried that and it didn't go well. They had one meeting then cancelled the rest. People were very upset. Trustee Harant recommended it be discussed at the May 25 Finance meeting. Trustee Bertschy stated it depends on how it's framed to the public. He'd rather it be a little uncomfortable but so be it. Public should have the right to talk about it if they want. Trustee Sierra agreed but his concern is that historically, the south side voting population does not turn up to vocalize their opinion on a variety of matters. He's not comfortable with the fact if other district population would show up and not the southern, other districts are once again making the decision for the southern district. Emily Cahill stated she appreciates those comments and she hopes the District has the opportunity to do some research to see what that does to the objectiveness of this process and if there are guidelines or best practices associated with that but it may be difficult to gather public input about setting voting districts. She recommended Mike Friberg and Becky Fredrickson do more research about what is viable.

4.D. Urban Forestry Project – Harrison School Land

Trustee Bertschy stated he had to leave now however, he is fully supportive of this project. Trustee Sierra stated he spoke with many people throughout the City of Peoria about the parcel of soon-to-be vacant land from the Harrison School is demolition. The city has no exact plans for it at this time. Trustee Sierra would like to create an urban forestry project in that space and he is currently developing a proposal as such. He is gathering data and literature in terms of the benefits of having a green space in that location. He would like to present his proposal for feedback at the next Planning Committee meeting on June 7. Emily Cahill stated she would like to merge efforts with the City of Peoria. She spoke to City Manager Patrick Urich and Community Development Director Joe Dulan about this specific parcel of land and they were going to let the public decide what to do with that space. The two options were affordable housing and possible urban forestry. They did have some questions about what exactly urban forestry is and they love the idea of using grant dollars to establish and maintain it. There may be an opportunity to work with the city on this however, if the public says they want affordable housing at that site, the city would be interested in possibly finding other parcels to establish an urban forest. The city is interested in possibly offering the McKinley School site and areas around Proctor Center. Trustee Sierra stated he welcomes a conversation to see how we can collaborate on this. Trustee Sierra gave a recap: He and Emily Cahill will meet and include Trustee Harant to work with a downstate group on this, then discuss next steps for putting together a proposal to city. We will encourage the Board to read the minutes of this meeting

and encourage their involvement. The proposal will be an item for the next Planning Committee meeting.

4.F. Lakeview Park – Memorial Tree by Library

Matt Freeman stated the District received a request from Jennifer Davis of the Peoria Public Library to plant a memorial tree for the Peoria Public Library Deputy Director Roberta Koscielski. She is retiring in May after 38 years of service. The library wanted the memorial tree here in Lakeview Park along with an accompanying plaque. Trustees Harant and Covington previously approved this prior to today’s meeting due to the timing of the request. The memorial tree was planted on Earth Day, April 22.

4.G. Leslie Rutherford Park – Dog Training Area Request

Matt Freeman stated that the Leslie Rutherford Park is 177 acres on Dickson Cemetery Road, consisting mainly of farmland, woods, production crop land, etc., and a cricket pitch on the south side in which the District has an exclusive use agreement with the Peoria Cricket Association. On the north side of the road, there was an exclusive use agreement with a dog training group that specifically trained dogs. With that long-standing exclusive use agreement for that parcel, they had dog training apparatus scattered throughout and a meeting building structure. Last year, that dog training group dissolved and the agreement ceased. Park District staff have taken over maintaining the area. The area is used for walking and hiking. The District received a request from a group to start a new dog training exclusive use agreement. Staff is looking for some direction on whether there is consensus on hearing a formal presentation on what the use of the property would be during the exclusive use agreement. Generally, most of the District’s exclusive use agreements tie back to the mission of parks and recreation services. The previous exclusive use agreement included a maintenance agreement but they did not do a very good job of fulfilling that part of the agreement. The had District received many complaints from constituents about the condition of the park. It was not mowed or cleaned as agreed to per the exclusive use agreement. The District’s costs to mow annually is approximately \$2,000. One option would be to possibly offer a facilities use agreement for the 6 dates they require rather than exclusive use. The Committee recommends offering a standard facilities use agreement for dates requested.

5. PENDING BUSINESS

None

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.A. Trewyn Park Update

Becky Fredrickson stated the shelter and playground materials have been purchased. The District is working on developing the bid documents to hopefully be sent out in the next few weeks for the site work i.e., basketball courts, sidewalks, etc. So far, all is going well.

6.B. Springdale Cemetery Savanna Update

Matt Freeman stated that staff has met internally to review the District's concerns and objectives before pursuing a meeting with the Springdale Cemetery Authority Board. A meeting is scheduled to present those concerns and objectives to the District Executive Director and Deputy Director at which time the District will formulate its position. No official map has been completed at this time.

Becky Fredrickson stated that FC Peoria attended the March 1, 2022 Planning Committee meeting to present their plans for work near the Mossville Soccer Complex. One of their phases would impact some of our fields. Next Friday, May 13, they will have an open house to kick off their capital campaign. Becky wanted to let everyone know this will be made public and Trustees may receive questions or comments about it. The District is also working with Attorney Streeter to develop a memo of understanding which will clearly define the scope of activities on the property.

Mike Friberg stated that in response to the mineral rights discussion discussed at the April 5, 2022 Planning Committee meeting, the other party requested the District to waive their mineral rights. The District countered with an offer to not act on its rights for 40 years or as long as the business (Aldi's) was operational. Whichever was less. The District has not received a response yet.

7. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

1. Environmental Policy:

-Add to Category #1 goal "Introduce quality and diverse habitats".

-Add climate imperative as answer to "why" statements to better answer the why question

2. Place Environmental Policy review and comments on the 5.25.22 Board meeting agenda.

3. Planning Committee will recommend to the Board a policy regarding artwork opportunities, what kind of resources the District would be willing to allocate to this, and what kind of resources the District would be required of the private entity.

4. Redistricting maps S3 and S6 will be placed on the May 25 Finance Committee Board of the Whole agenda for discussion.

5. Planning Committee will recommend to the Board a policy regarding public/private artwork and sculpture opportunities on Park District property, including impacts to parks and resources.

5. Develop urban forestry proposal to City of Peoria. Take the proposal to the June 7 Planning Committee meeting for discussion.

6. Contact City Manager Patrick Urich concerning status of savanna map.

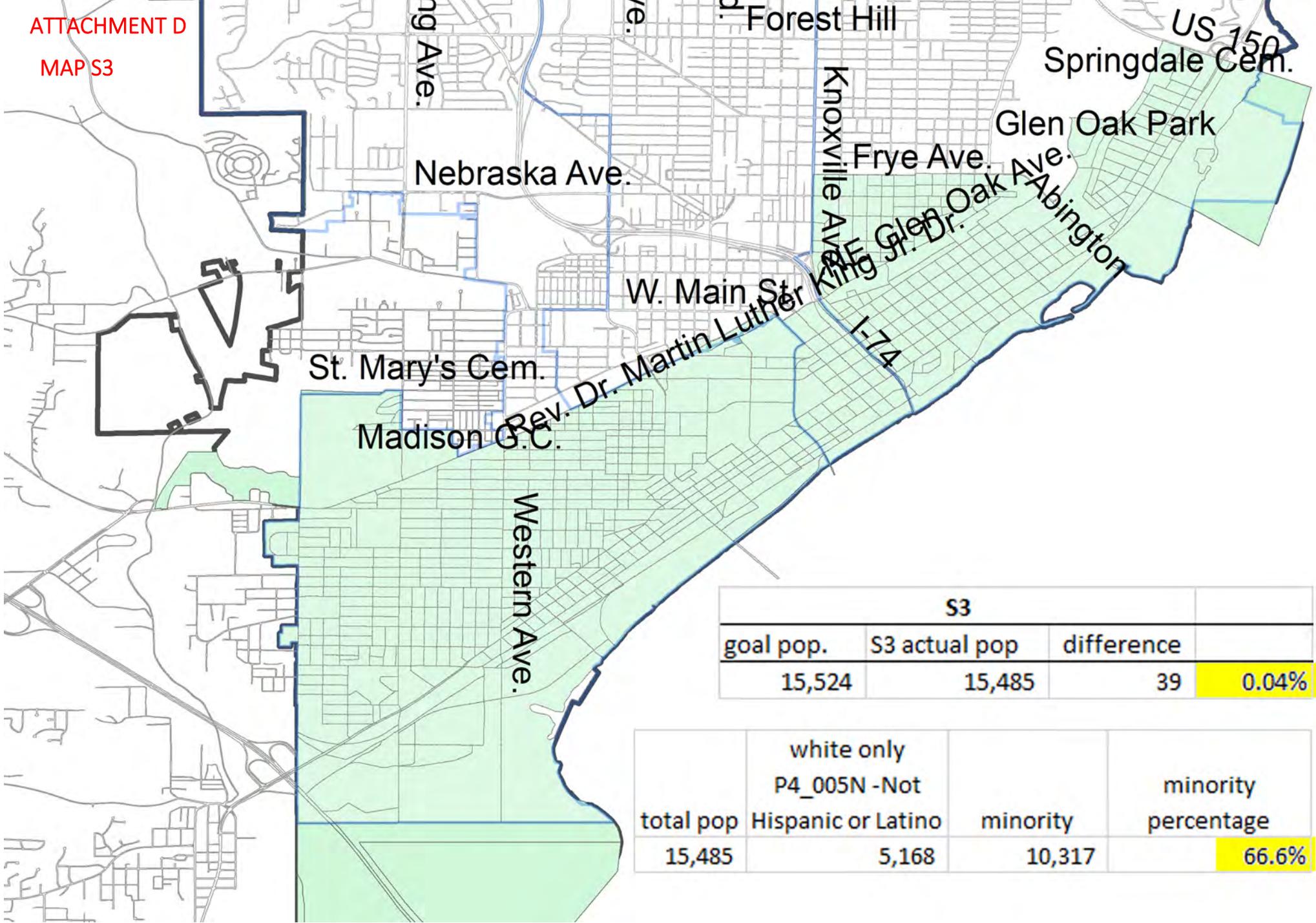
8. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 3:00 pm

9. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Joyce Harant adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.

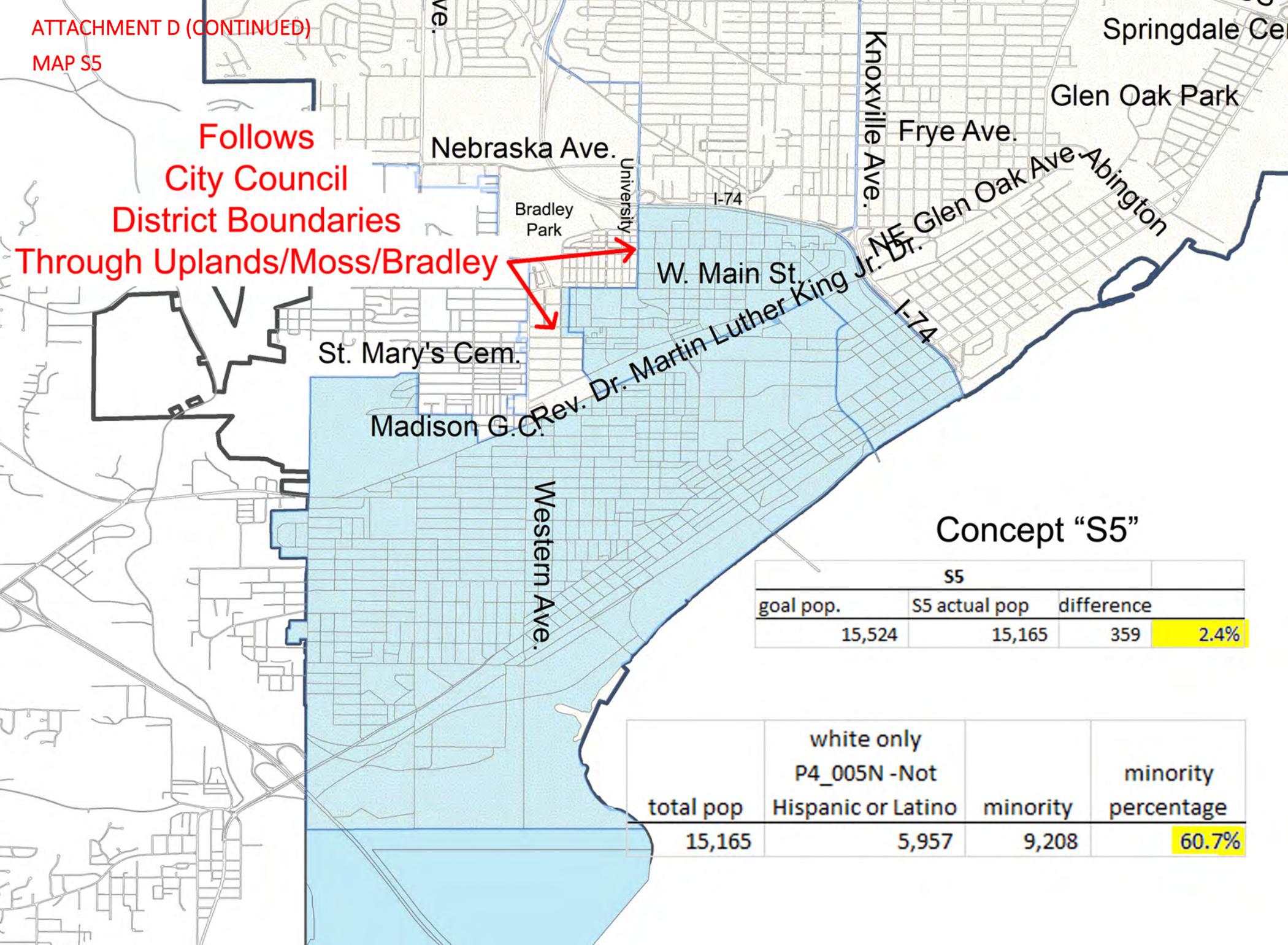
Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Secretary to the Board



S3			
goal pop.	S3 actual pop	difference	
15,524	15,485	39	0.04%

total pop	white only P4_005N -Not Hispanic or Latino	minority	minority percentage
15,485	5,168	10,317	66.6%

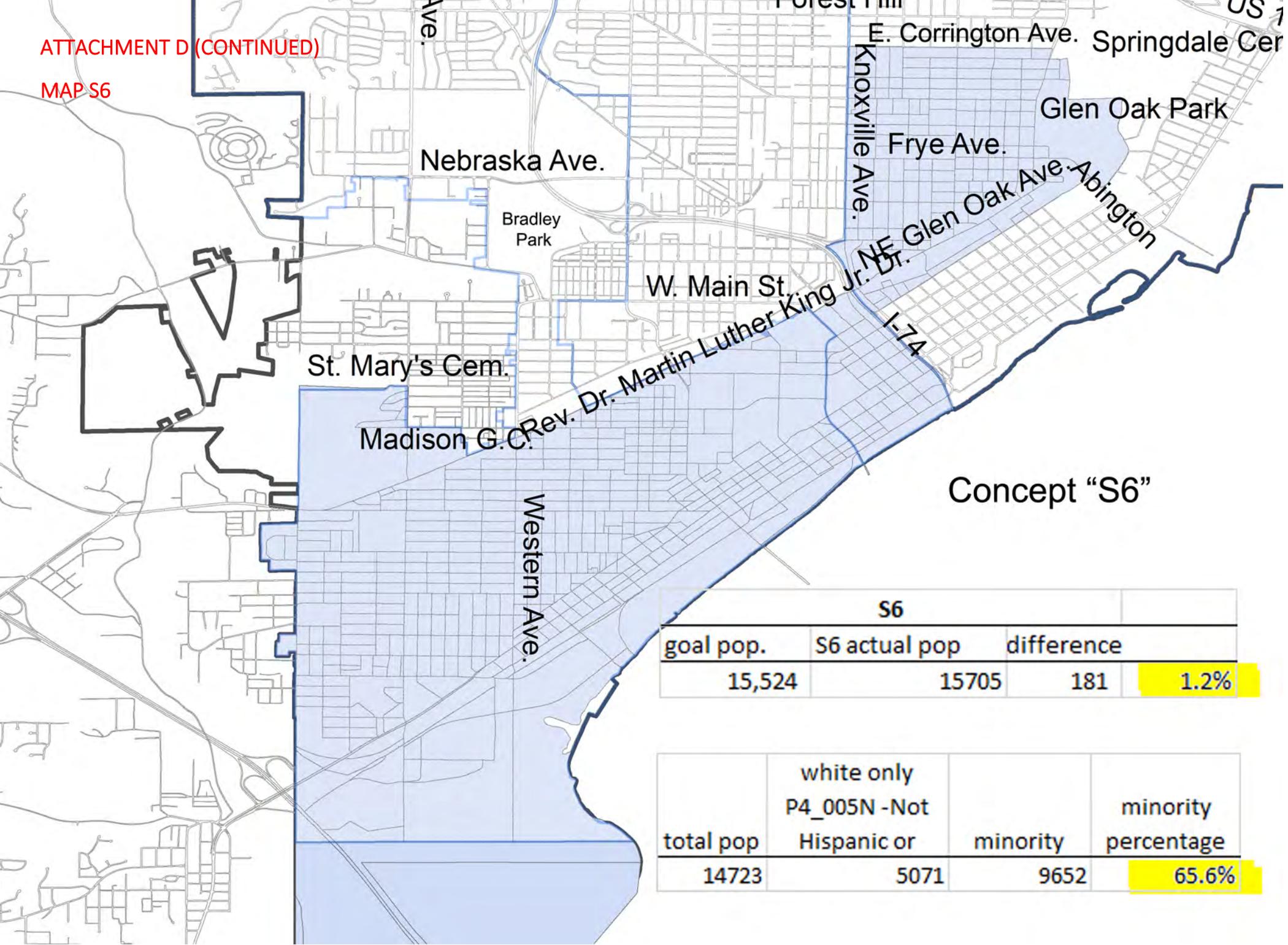
**Follows
City Council
District Boundaries
Through Uplands/Moss/Bradley**



Concept "S5"

S5			
goal pop.	S5 actual pop	difference	
15,524	15,165	359	2.4%

total pop	white only P4_005N -Not Hispanic or Latino	minority	minority percentage
15,165	5,957	9,208	60.7%



Concept "S6"

S6			
goal pop.	S6 actual pop	difference	
15,524	15705	181	1.2%

total pop	white only P4_005N -Not Hispanic or	minority	minority percentage
14723	5071	9652	65.6%