

**Royal Oak 2020 Census  
Complete Count Committee**

**Minutes from Feb. 20, 2020**

**Mahany/Meininger  
3500 Marais Ave  
Royal Oak, MI 48073**

**Members Present** –Wanda Warsinski, Bernadette Beach, Tom Allen, Bruce Weaver, Theresa Tejada

City Liaison: James Krizan, Carol Schwanger

Absent: Royetta Ealba, Larysa Blyzniuk, Kit Frohardt Lane

1. Call to Order at 5:30 by Beach, chair.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda by Warsinski, seconded by Weaver. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: Motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2020 by Allen, seconded by Warsinski. All in favor.
5. Unfinished Business:
  - a. Yard Signs—Distribution Plans: Beach brought some sample yard signs. Weaver distributed a document with criteria for yard sign distribution as well as a heat map of clusters of apartments and condos and Krizan brought city maps. The heat maps indicated clusters around 11 Mile, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and along Crooks, particularly north of 13 Mile, among other areas. Weaver suggested that these maps be used to develop a document listing the intersections where people can put yard signs so that people know where they are going to go. The document will also provide some information on right of way, putting the signs at an intersectional corner instead of someone's house, place the side perpendicular to the road, etc. He suggested having a meeting mid-week to determine the specific locations to place yard signs. The meeting will be Thursday, 2/27 at 5:30 pm. Krizan will attempt to reserve the senior center, and if not, the meeting will be at the library. Weaver will make a draft plan for yard sign distribution using highest predicted non-response census tracts as a priority.

1. No volunteers have signed up so far.
  2. Some ideas for place yard signs discussed included: Royal Oak High School (Blynsniuk got approval to put three in a row there), in front of the Department of Public Works, in front of duplexes at 12 Mile and Campbell, and city parks along 11 Mile, 13 Mile, Rochester, Main, and Crooks.
  3. Downtown, except the library, should be avoided.
  4. Roads not owned by the city include 12 Mile, Woodward, the east side of Campbell, some of 14 Mile.
  - b. Poster Distribution: Warsinski took some posters to drop off. Krizan suggested putting the posters in downtown businesses.
  - c. Review of Timeline for Events:
    1. Blynsniuk is looking for assistance for an event at Keller Elementary on March 6. Warsinski will be there from 5-7 and Tejada will attend from 7-9.
    2. Warsinski attended an event where Superintendent Mary Beth Fitzpatrick was there and discussed school count day and wanting to align both messages.
    3. Schwanger is going to ask the Farmers Market to put a message on their digital sign.
    4. Beach is on the agenda to give a presentation on the Census at the Feb. 24 City Commission meeting. She will give a report on what has been done so far, ask for volunteers for yard sign distribution, and encourage people to fill out the census.
6. New Business
- a. Report from Subcommittees:
    1. Seniors: Warsinski is continuing to outreach to low-income seniors.
    2. FAQs: Weaver will continue to update the FAQs as needed.
      1. Tejada stated that she got a question about whether the postcards being mailed to the houses with the link to fill out the census online will be coming out in different languages. Weaver will look up the answer. Krizan imagined that if the initial postcards do not elicit a response, then the next postcard will have a language disclaimer with the 40 most popular languages about getting language assistance or the census in a different language.
      2. Warsinski stated that she got a comment from someone who confused the census with voting. Because of this confusion, it was suggested to add to the yard sign distribution guidance to avoid areas that are populated with political signs.
      3. Tejada got a question about assisting individuals filling out the census and whether it was permissible. She stated that as long as you are not filling out for another, but helping them to fill it out, it is fine.
    3. Faith-based: Beach stated that Oakland County is having an event about the census geared to faith leaders on Saturday from 6:30-9:00 at St. George's Cultural Center. Allen will attend and report out.
7. Any other topics requiring discussion
- a. Beach will share her address to help put the yard signs together. She is very pleased with how the signs turned out.

- b. Due to potentially stormy weather, although we are now allowed to place the signs, it will be best to wait until March 1, especially if no volunteers sign up.
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.
- 9. Next Meetings
  - a. March 5, March 19 all at 5:30

