

## SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

**Commissioners Present:** Eliseo EJ Juárez, Patience Malaba, Commission Chair Greg Nickels, Neelima Shah

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**Commissioners Absent:** Rory O’Sullivan

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**Commission Staff and Guests:** Logan Drumond: Department of Neighborhoods, Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney, Mary Ullrich: Districting GIS Consultant, Dennis Higgins: Districting GIS Consultant

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(Transcriber’s Note: Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion. The recording of the meeting is available upon request.)

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

##### **I. Call to Order**

- To follow the recent amendment by Governor Inslee [House Bill 1329](#), of the Open Public Meeting Act to increase the accessibility of and participation in public meetings. This meeting was held online and in a physical location at the City of Seattle L280 Boards and Commissions Room on floor L2 at 600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle WA, 98104.
- This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM once the Redistricting Commissioners had quorum.

##### **II. Welcome & Housekeeping**

- Reading of the agenda, welcome and land acknowledgement

##### **III. Agenda Review and approval**

- There were no questions or concerns from the Commissioners on today’s agenda for the 7.26.22 meeting Motioned by Commission Shah and seconded by Commissioner Malaba. The agenda for 7.26.22 were then passed unanimously with four yes votes.
- At future meetings, the Seattle Redistricting Commission agreed to take public comment once towards the beginning of the meeting, and the time for speakers will be extended to three minutes.

##### **IV. Minutes approval**

- Approval for the 7.19.2022 and 7.21.22 meeting minutes were motioned for a vote by Commissioner Malaba and seconded by Commissioner Juarez. The minutes were then passed by the Commission unanimously with four yes votes.

**V. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement**

- Commissioners acknowledged that they have reviewed the latest submitted public comments.

**VI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

- No conflicts of interest were disclosed at this time by Redistricting Commissioners.

**VII. Public Comment**

- **Scott Shawcroft** - "First I wanted to follow up with a request ahead a few weeks ago about clarifying what one percent meant I looked at the website and didn't see anything I was wondering if that had actually been determined."
  - **The Districting GIS Consultant responded**, noting that the smallest population wise of the districts will be calculated one percent of that population and that will be the maximum delta between the smallest and the largest district.
  - **Staff noted** that the definition is present on the minutes of the 7.12.2022 Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting minutes, which states *"The largest district shall not exceed the smallest district (by 1%), the smallest district's population controls. So, if the smallest district's population is 100,000, the largest district's population cannot be more than (100,000 + (1% of 100,000), or 101,000."*
- **Scott Shawcroft** - "Second do we have an expectation for when the commissioner's maps would be available, I'm hoping to run the analysis and provide written feedback prior to the retreat next Tuesday so that's why I'm asking. Lastly, I sent an email with this as well, but I updated the reports that I was doing with additional maps from redistricting justice for Seattle and a number of other community members that had done that and I also asked staff if they knew of any other dave's redistricting links from folks but those were all that I could find and I also made a page that lists them all so if you need a central location to get all the dave's links for all of the maps um that's available as well thank you and that's it for me."

**VIII. Public Forum review and upcoming forums**

- Commissioners noted that it was helpful to get so much detailed feedback from the public comments during the District 7 Public Forum and noted how difficult it is to keep all of downtown into one district and make the population even across the seven districts.

**IX. Mapping Retreat Preparations**

- The Redistricting Commission discussed the agenda for the mapping retreat. Redistricting Commissioners decided to opt for a review of written public comments at the beginning of the meeting and shifting that time for commissioners to present their individual map drafts ideas.
- Commissioners agreed to take a Covid-19 test prior to the meeting.
- Legal team staff will find out and advice on further health requirements and recommendations for the in-person meetings.
- Staff will prepare a package with all public submitted maps and comments prior to the retreat.

**X. Open District lines options conversation**

- Commissioners Juarez, Commission Chair Nickels and Commissioner Malaba shared their most recent work and thoughts on their individual maps, which they will present officially during the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Mapping Retreat.

- This agenda item is added to all agendas, so that the commission can workshop where to put district lines and process feedback from the public forums in real-time to narrow down options.

**XI. Next meetings – August 2nd Retreat. August 9, 16, 23, 30?**

- The Redistricting Commission’s next meeting will be a public forum on August 9th, 2022, from 12:00pm-1:30pm.
- There will be no regular meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, as this is the day of the draft mapping retreat.
- The commission discussed with DON Staff to add three additional public forums after the mapping retreat: August 9th (during lunch), September 10th (on a Saturday), and October 5th (on a Wednesday evening). Commissioners were encouraged to check their schedules to verify that they can attend these proposed additional public forum dates.
- Aside from the August 9<sup>th</sup> Public Forum meeting, the Redistricting Commission does not plan to hold any meetings in the month of August.

**XII. Public Comment – Continued**

- **Steve Horvath** - “Hi commissioners I'll be brief you heard from me last Thursday and thanks again for taking all this time I admire your dedication to the process this was my first look at any of the draft maps and I mean clearly you're getting advocates from multiple different districts and neighborhoods and different geographical boundaries to ask you to draw the lines in a way that makes sense to them and I would just take this opportunity I would say I was re-energized by the number of people last Thursday in the district 7 session that advocated for keeping downtown one piece none of the maps that I saw today do that but some of them actually have downtown in four separate districts and I noted comments during your meeting today about well during the next redistricting this will get addressed I would want to just emphasize to you that this being the first time the district lines have the opportunity to be redrawn you have the power and I think ultimately what will happen if downtown does get broken up into four districts is that it won't be able to be corrected and so you are actually going to set the precedent for the redistricting of how downtown works I think ever more I don't see downtown going back into one or two districts if it gets if it ends up in four so I just want to emphasize the importance that the city places again on the downtown urban center there's a lot written about it and it's all in a lot of giant documents that our city council takes a lot of time to work on in the in the plan for 2035 and thereafter so I would just ask you to please again consider the importance of what downtown means to the city and how splitting up downtown into multiple districts will affect the city going forward not only now but as further redistricting occurs thank you.”
- **Question from Commissioner Shah for Steve Horvath:** What is the geography of downtown and I'm kind of looking at you know I in my map I have Belltown Queen Anne Lake Union the central business district so I didn't manage to have pioneer square in that in district 7. I would like to know what the community says the boundary between you know what's considered downtown between district 7 and district six uh yeah as briefly as possible.
- **Steve Horvath response** - “I can't send the link but I mean you everybody has access the I would tell you that the Seattle comprehensive plan which is a 600 page document adopted and updated by the city council quite frequently includes Belltown Denny triangle the commercial corps pioneer square and the cid as the five neighborhoods and only the five neighborhoods and no other land as what is the downtown urban core so that is as far as i know the best and most official definition of exactly what downtown is and it's talked about quite extensively in the

comprehensive plan uh starting somewhere i don't know but you can you can you'll find it if you google downtown in there down the word downtown is referenced I think 60 or 80 times um so uh it's obviously quite important to the city but that's the official I think that's the only definition of downtown that matters in my in my opinion because the city council has blessed it so for whatever that's worth and that's right I mean so the cid I mean that would take district 7 way into district 3. I know that you're all trying to balance this and I don't want to extend my public comment any further and I respect that you have to do what you have to do to get the numbers to work out but I just if you know if ever if all of these other boundaries are important I just think looking at that document that comprehensive plan I know you don't have a lot more time to all spend because you all have other things to do in your lives but if you haven't taken the opportunity to look at the comprehensive plan I do think that should help inform this process because the city spends probably more money on that than on redistricting and money shouldn't drive how this process works but the time and money that's spent on that plan is how the city develops itself over the next 20 years so anyway thank you."

- **Response from Commissioner Malaba** - Thank you not to expand steve's time here uh but steve I do have a slight follow-up question I will say that the comprehensive plan is 609 pages to be specific so it's quite a long comprehensive document and having been in the planning commission prior I know it can be dense but the south lake union area is their history of why it is not part of the downtown to your knowledge?
- **Steve Horvath response** - "My sense has been that there was a point where it was being considered as a part of some part of southern union as part of downtown that to tell you my naivete and my public service does not go back far enough to understand why SLU or uptown for example which was previously lower Queen Anne weren't considered part of downtown I think you'd have to go back 20 years to find out and the neighborhoods department and neighborhoods and I don't know if you've networked with any of those folks but they probably have some answers there's great some great people over there too so they might be able to help."
- **Scott Shawcroft** - "I wanted to respond to what happens during the meeting um but I'll be quick I promise you first thank you logan for the link in the chat um to where the one percent thing is regarding audio I do a lot of video calls and I think you'll be okay if you're not playing sound from the zoom call into the room if you're just taking audio from the room I think it'll be okay and then last step regarding the wedgwood elementary I'd again encourage to look at the reports I've done because it takes into account all elementary school areas not just one in particular and kind of summarizes the total number of people that are split from the bulk of the their elementary school so to speak side take again I encourage you to take a look at those reports that's it for me thank you."
- **Gregg Petrie** - "This is Gregg Petrie district four and I'd just like to take this time to thank the people that worked on this it's kind of a thankless job and I and I've been impressed about the sort of work ethic and the sense of sort of fairness is going on here particularly in contrast to we see in the other Washington so I just like to on behalf of the public thank you guys for the hard work and you know and the apparent you know fairness to you guys that's going here so again just thanks."

### **XIII. Next meetings**

- The next meeting will be the redistricting mapping retreat at the Bertha Knight Landes (BKL) Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor at City Hall at 600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle WA, 98104 on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, from 5:00PM-9:00PM.
- The next meeting after this will be a public forum on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- In late August and early September, the Seattle Redistricting Commission will hold three additional public forums after the mapping retreat: August 9th (during lunch), September 10th (on a Saturday), and October 5th (on a Wednesday evening). Commissioners were encouraged to check their schedules to verify that they can attend these proposed additional public forum dates.

**XIV. Adjourn**

- Commission Chair Greg Nickels asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Malaba motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Juarez seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with four yes votes.
- The next meeting after this will be a public forum on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 7.26.22 and 8.02.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to [Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov](mailto:Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov)