

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on May 10th, 2022

Commissioners Present: Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez, Patience Malaba, Greg Nickels, Rory O’Sullivan, Neelima Shah

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Commission Staff and Guests: Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods, Jenn Brandon: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney, Dennis Higgins: Districting GIS Consultant, Mary Ullrich: Districting GIS Consultant

(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

- This Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting was held virtually through Zoom. This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 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 further questions or concerns from the Commissioners on today’s agenda for the 5.03.22 meeting.
- **Minutes approval**
- Approval for the 4.19.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The minutes for the 4.19.22 meeting was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Public Comment

- Paul Chapman provided public comment, and after reviewing the proposed maps that have been drafted Paul noted a concern that the maps prioritized wealthy white homeowners over the majority of the city who are renters.

V. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

- Commissioners acknowledged that they have reviewed the latest submitted public comments. Commissioner Greg Nickels had technical difficulties which prevented him from looking at the latest public comments.

VI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- No disclosures were made

VII. Outreach Updates

- Elsa Batres-Boni gave the Redistricting Commissioners an update on outreach efforts. Community listening and information sessions have been successful, and as of this meeting there have been 36 different community meetings. We have engaged many different communities to discuss redistricting, what the commission does, and how to participate in the process.
- In terms of outreach numbers, we have had 36 meetings, 335 attendees, 47,000 visits to the website as well as 112,000 page views. We have had 136 public comment submissions, 29 signups for the upcoming public forums, three map training recordings. We have done outreach to all of our known connections in the city, and we have had information sessions spread throughout each district in the city.
- Dennis Higgins, GIS Consultant asked that the Commissioners send a list of their mapping non-negotiables to them, so that they have a baseline of requirements when creating new map drafts as the Commission narrows to one map.
- Mary Ullrich from the GIS consultant team suggested commissioners review non-negotiables elements in the maps that are dictated by geography. For example: District 1 can only grow to the east due to geography boundaries, District 5 must move to the south. Commissioner requested that when they meet to draft the final one map, that GIS Consultant brings printed large maps that have census block groups labeled with populations to facilitate the discussion.

VIII. Public Forums – Dates, content, roles

- Elsa Batres-Boni led a discussion with the Redistricting Commission on the format of the upcoming public forums. There will be a brief introduction of Redistricting, a walkthrough of legal criteria, and an explanation of what the maps might be and opening the forum for public comments to get feedback on the example maps.
- Commissioner O’Sullivan expressed concern that one forum took place during a workday for District 3, as well as a concern that all the public forums take place within City Hall for the in-person option. Staff explained that room and technology availability has limited where and when we can hold the Public Forums, due to the new requirement to have an in-person meeting option for the Open Public Meetings Act starting on June 1st, 2022. Staff will continue to explore finding other location and time options for the Public Forum meetings.
- Commissioner Shah noted that it may be best to go forward in public forum meetings by working with the public on how to adjust districts, as opposed to focusing on feedback for the four example maps that were computer generated and are not meant to be options for the next stage in the map-drawing process.
- The Redistricting Commission Made a request for staff to relabel the maps from saying Draft Maps to being Example Maps, as the current four maps are not actually being considered.
- Assistant City Attorney Ariel Schneier noted that the rescinding of the new ruling of the Open Public Meetings Act doesn’t impact Commissioners in that they will be able to continue

attending meetings online, the only difference will be that an in-person/hybrid option must be available for the public and staff will make that possible at each forum.

IX. Next meetings, May 10, May 24 – draft map deliberation date – City Hall

- The next meeting will be on May 10th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- Staff will also begin finding a time for the Commission and GIS Consultant to meet via a public retreat to work their way down to a single map after taking all the feedback given in public forums into account. Staff will send out a poll to Commissioners to gauge their availability in the first two weeks of August.

X. Public Comment - Continued

- No one from the public volunteered to provide public comment at this time.

XI. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Shah motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Nickels seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday May 10th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 5.03.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov