

## SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on October 4, 2022

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

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**Commissioners Absent:**

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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 12:02 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 9.27.22 meeting. Commissioner Nickels motioned for a vote to approve the agenda, with the change that public comment be moved before the possible draft map amendment vote. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The agenda for 9.27.22 was then passed unanimously with five yes votes, with a change to move the public comment period before the possible draft map amendment vote.

##### IV. Minutes approval

- The 9.20.2022 meeting minutes were up for approval at today’s meeting. The minutes were motioned for approval by Commissioner Nickels with a second from Commissioner Juárez. The 9.20.22 meeting minutes were approved unanimously with five 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**

- **Chris Woodward** - “Hi Commissioners my name is Chris Woodward I'm the community development director at the alliance for Pioneer Square providing public comment today to communicate the alliance's concerns regarding the proposal to move Fremont into D7 without consideration to include Pioneer Square in that District our concerns Center on the lack of recognition for Pioneer Square residents systemic social inequality and the failure to align our neighborhood with similar neighborhoods the most recent proposed changes to the commission's draft map oh sorry let me go back first pioneers first residential Community is very low income and primarily renters and demographically diverse Pioneer Square has a much higher percentage of very low income housing than the city as a whole based on a study done in 2022 by Mig about 80 percent of the housing within Pioneer Square serves households making less than 80 Ami annual medium income data provided by the city of Seattle's Department of neighborhoods notes the Pioneer Square is home to 95.2 percent renters compared to 53 city-wide and a residential population of folks of color at 49 compared to 33 city-wide second Pioneer Square is an urban neighborhood with Urban challenges and needs the proposed changes disadvantaged Pioneer Square by not recognizing our neighborhood similarities with those neighborhoods currently located in D7 and aligning the neighborhood with dissimilar areas in District One Pioneer Square's challenges and needs are the reason why our neighborhood is a part of the Metropolitan improvement district or the mid housed under the downtown Seattle Association Pioneer Square should then be aligned with the neighborhoods within the mid boundary in District 7. the alliance recognizes the challenges facing the commission to create city council districts within uh certain constraints to have equal population to date the commission has exhibited flexibility in reshaping the district boundaries in the northern half of the city including Magnolia and East Lake Pioneer Square deserves such consideration of flexibility as well the alliance offers two recommendations to the commission first provide more detailed data regarding your residential populations added to D7 and Fremont and First Hill I've seen them in the most recent post changes to the map and reassess the districting of D7 at Pioneer Square I look forward to continuing this conversation with commission and welcome any questions thank you.”
- **Andrew Hong** – “My name is Andrew Hong I'm a co-coordinator of the redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition and a lifelong resident of District 2 in South Seattle uh first off um I and the Coalition are supportive of the amendment to keep all of Eastlake into one District in District three this helps keep that Community together while not bending City Charter law however the same cannot be said with the Fremont Amendment as um you know City Charter states that the commission must draw districts in line with waterways to the extent practical and not cross over waterways unnecessarily and the amendment to move District Seven across the cut in addition to the district 6 crossover would bend that City Charter law and instead you know the Coalition

would Advocate the commission to adopt the rjs map proposal which complies with City Charter laws and also through a statistic analysis statistical analysis by Scott Shawcroft the RGS map splits less people on from their neighborhood's primary districts throughout the whole City compared to any of the maps including the proposed amendments to the draft map um uh any Maps released by the commission and so to keep neighbors together and fully comply with city law the commission we advocated the commission adopt the rjs map which works to be aligned with City Charter state and federal law keep as many people in their neighborhoods as possible and also ensure equity and not harmfully packing low-income or renter communities into a few districts making sure that our renters are heard in all districts throughout the city uh yeah thank you."

- **Scott Shawcroft** – "I'm Scott Shawcroft uh I don't have any official organizational affiliations but I've been doing a lot of analysis around the districting plans um first I'd like to say I support the proposed amendments um I had a couple of concerns uh one was splitting on 15th um because Apartments could end up on both sides of 15th but I was looking into it and it doesn't look like there are any apartments at least on the east side of 15th so I think that boundary is okay I also looked at the Fremont boundary and it's super tricky to find a good boundary between Fremont and Wallingford so I think what is in there is reasonable my opinion about the water crossover is that it's equivalent to following neighborhood boundaries so that's the trade-off uh in my understanding um I also did some initial additional analysis around making sure that there's no areas of a district where you have to travel through another District to get to the rest of the district which the current map actually fails in a couple spots so I'm happy to report that the given the 923 proposed amendments there's no Road disconnects which is a good thing as well um I sent a link in the written comments or at least to staff I think uh with a link to a PDF of this analysis if you haven't taken a look um before the PDF should be a little bit easier to see all of the stuff that I'm doing um the one concern that I continue to have about the map that was true for the August 2nd and now this revised one as well as I believe the biggest splits that I've identified are Blue Ridge is split and Greenwood is split in the same way that Magnolia Village was kind of the commercial center of a neighborhood was split I believe that Greenwood is split in the same way it's not quite 85th it's like a block North of 85th but that's still uh in my book kind of a pretty big split of Greenwood my suggestion would be to extend um Blue Ridge in six all the way to car key Park and then move uh more of Greenwood into District Five kind of as that trade-off I've also looked at the Pioneer Square thing but the real challenge with Pioneer Square into D7 is figuring out what to do with district one it's not as simple as just moving the boundaries at District Seven so uh thank you all for all of your time it's been a pleasure working with you and for forming this process."
- **Ann Goos** – "You've made Magnolia happy I want to just say on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and many folks who talked to over the last week really do appreciate your responsiveness and the fact that the amended map which we support moved that line to 15th and again we just truly appreciate that you listened we look forward as the chamber to providing substantive comments as I've said in previous testimony in support that Magnolias indeed a community of Interest a long-time community of interest and supporting the amended map in terms that that we think it was logical it certainly keeps us together and uh we appreciate really that you listened and what a pleasure it's been working on this process so thank you."

- **Janice Traven** – “I want to thank the commission uh for listening to all neighborhoods and responding to the many voices particularly coming from my neighborhood Magnolia when the city stops supporting its districts and neighborhoods there was a connection that was lost to the rest of the city our connection to the rest of the city has been diminished it used to be easier to know what other neighborhoods and their activities and priorities were I know that it isn't the commission's purpose to solve that but for Magnolia you didn't exacerbate the problem by putting a gash through our peninsula so I want to thank you for listening and coming up with the draft map that keeps Magnolia whole I also encourage anybody who is on the call and the Commissioners once again please come and visit us we didn't build a moat around Magnolia we are surrounded on three sides by water and uh and a railroad on the east side and we need three Bridges to get there um so if you come please come and see us contact me contact Anne and we will show you what a whole Community we are thank you.”
- **Joanna Cullen** – “I'm here to really support the RJS map I think it is probably a very the best of the map so far um my question is before you vote on the Amendments and while I understand that Magnolia is very happy with the new draft map and I can understand why just a new draft map really provide any better I mean that new draft map could be like well this is one way of solving some of these problems but does it really provide better foundation for public comments and continuing public discussion than your original draft map so I would like to hear a discussion of that before you vote on the amendments thank you.”

#### **VIII. Draft Map discussion and possible vote**

- The following changes to the draft map were motioned for a vote by Commissioner O’Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Shah:
  - Move Southeast Magnolia and most of Interbay into District 6 and move most of Fremont into District 7
  - Move Eastlake into District 3 and a western portion of First Hill into District 7
  - Accommodating suggested changes from King County elections by moving a zero-population census block to be consistent with State boundary lines.
- These amendments were passed on September 27, 2022 with four yes votes from Commissioner Shah, Commissioner Malaba, Commissioner O’Sullivan, and Commissioner Nickels. Commissioner Juárez voted no on these amendments to the draft map.
- See Exhibit 1 below for a copy of the amended draft map and a link to the map on Dave’s Redistricting App.

#### **IX. Upcoming Commission Topics**

- Redistricting commissioners discussed the next steps for their process, including the timeline for final submission and making a request from staff to draft a resolution document that outlines the decision-making processes and reasoning by the Redistricting Commission in how they drafted the district boundaries.
- Redistricting commissioners also asked staff to provide an updated budget and how much money has been spent and what is available for educating the public on the new City Council district line boundaries. Staff noted that there is a substantial amount of budget left, as the Redistricting process was delayed.

#### **X. Next regular meetings – and public forums**

- The Redistricting Commission's next meeting will be a regular public meeting on October 4, 2022 from 12:00pm-1:30pm at the L280 Boards and Commissions Room at City Hall on Floor L2.
- There will be one last public forum on October 8, 2022, from 10:00am-12:00pm at the Bertha Knight Landes Room (BKL) on the first floor at 600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle WA 98104.

**XI. Adjourn**

- Acting Commission Chair Malaba asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Shah motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner O'Sullivan seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- Questions and comments, please send them to [Elsa.Batres-Boni@Seattle.gov](mailto:Elsa.Batres-Boni@Seattle.gov)

**Exhibit 1**

- The Commissioners' Amended Draft Map can be found below and at the following Dave's Redistricting App link:
  - <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::3c1e0311-8f28-4303-8320-4488d18d5195>

