

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 25th, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on February 1st, 2022

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

Commissioners Absent: Patience Malaba

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

(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 12:04 PM once the Redistricting Commissioners had quorum.

II. Welcome & Housekeeping

- Reading of the agenda, welcome

III. Agenda Review and approval

- There were no further questions or concerns from the Commissioners and the agenda was then motioned for approval by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Shah. The agenda was then passed by the Commission unanimously with three yes votes. Commissioner Juarez was briefly absent at the time of this vote and Commissioner Malaba was unable to attend this meeting.

IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 1.18.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Shah. The 1.18.22 meeting minutes were then passed by the Commission unanimously with three yes votes. Commissioner Juarez was briefly absent at the time of this vote and Commissioner Malaba was unable to attend this meeting.

V. Public Comment and Acknowledgement of received public comments

- Katie Schultz from Win|Win Action and Redistricting Justice for Washington signed up to provide public comment at today’s Redistricting Meeting. Katie summarized some key points in

the memo provided to the Redistricting Commission prior to this meeting, including suggestions to keep a diversity of meeting times for the public hearing schedule, and to give at least four weeks after proposals have been shared to provide input. She also recommended to make the commission website developed in such a way that has accessible community education toolkits and information for folks to take back.

- Nirae Petty from Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle signed up to provide public comment at today's Redistricting Meeting. Nirae brought up questions concerning whether or not the Commission had any community involvement with the initial draft maps and for an explanation on how the process works for the first round of map drafts.

VI. Redistricting Law review

- Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney with the Seattle City Attorney's office gave a presentation to give the Commissioners an overview of the local, state, and federal laws around Redistricting.

VII. GIS update: Drafts and Public input tools

- Dennis Higgins: Districting GIS consultant informed the Commissioners about a new web tool that they will be able to use as they go about the Redistricting process and went over options for the public input tools for the creation and submission of maps by the members of the public. The Commission leaned towards opting for the third option, which will be third-party application. The Districting GIS consultant will provide a detailed set of instructions for the public to submit their maps. The Redistricting Commission will then look over the instructions and make their final decision. Districting GIS Consultant will continue to explore what the process of setting up an internal public input tool through the City of Seattle GIS team would look like and report back.

VIII. New chair selection

- Commission Chair O'Sullivan nominated Commissioner Shah to be the Chair of the Redistricting Commission for the next three months. Commissioner Nickels seconded, and Commissioner Shah was approved as the next chair with three yes votes and one abstention.

IX. Next meetings

- o The next meeting will be on February 1st, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

X. Adjourn

- The Seattle Redistricting Commission Chair Rory O'Sullivan asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nickels motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner O'Sullivan seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with four yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday February 1st, 2022, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 1.25.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Commission staff will send out calendar invites for upcoming meetings.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov