

## SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### MINUTES

Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 PM

WebEx Meeting

Approved on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**Commissioners Present:** Eliseo EJ Juárez, Former Mayor Greg Nickels, Neelima Shah, Rory O’Sullivan

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**Commissioners Absent:** N/A

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**Commission Staff:** Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods

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**Guests:** Ariel Schneier: City Attorney’s Office, Gary Smith: City Attorney’s Office

*(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 WebEx. This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 1:10pm once the Redistricting Commissioners were all present.

##### II. Welcome & Housekeeping

- Land Acknowledgment – Acknowledged that we are on indigenous land
- Reading of the agenda, welcome

##### III. Approve October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes

- Redistricting Commissioners need some more time to look over the minutes from this past meeting. We will be going over approval of the October 13, 2021, meeting and today’s meeting at the beginning of the meeting on October 21, 2021.

##### IV. Introductions

- Ariel Schneier introduced Gary Smith from the City Attorney’s office, he will be attending most meetings, but Ariel will be the point person from the City Attorney’s office for all meetings.

##### V. Questions from Commissioners

- **Commissioner Nickels:** Will this meeting be made public?
- **Staff EBB:** Wanting to check in about this and to see if folks want to have recordings.

- **Staff EBB:** Two Questions from the commission: Question one is if we can have the recording online instead of approving minutes? Question two is if meeting recordings are not approved via OPMA?
- **Staff EBB:** We will be sending the minutes from last week to commissioners to resolve any technical issues that happened with the minutes link.

**VI. Public Comment**

- No one from community was present for public comment or registered via our website beforehand, so we are moving on to the next part of the meeting.
- Staff Explained and made note on how there will be always a time for public comment during commission meetings

**VII. Fifth Commissioner Decision vote**

Commissioner	Top Candidates			
Commissioner Juarez	Patience Malaba	Naheed Aaftaab		
Commissioner Nickels	Patience Malaba	Naheed Aaftaab	Tom Hauger	Ray Dubicki
Commissioner Shah	Patience Malaba	Naheed Aaftaab	Tom Hauger	
Commissioner O' Sullivan	Patience Malaba	Naheed Aaftaab	Andrew Hong	Tom Hauger

- **Commissioner O’Sullivan:** I move to nominate the top two candidates - Patience Malaba and Naheed Aaftaab - for the interviews next week.
- **Commissioner Nickels:** I second that motion as well, we are agreed on these two candidates.
- **Commissioner Juárez:** That sounds great to me as well.
- **Commissioner Shah:** I also move to interview the top two candidates, Patience Malaba and Naheed Aaftaab.
- **Staff EBB:** We will be contacting the candidates and will set up the interviews for them. The interview will be public and will have one candidate after the other.

**VIII. Interview process and Executive meeting**

- Commissioners will interview Patience Malaba and Naheed Aaftaab on October 21 between 11:45 and 1:15.
- Candidates will be interviewed in a public meeting
- Candidates will receive information about the Commission, time commitment and instructions on how to log in to the interview. But won’t receive a copy of the questions.
- Candidates will be asked to connect to the meeting and wait to be admitted in the “lobby” in WebEx until is their turn.
- After interviews are done, Commissioners will go into an Executive Meeting to consider qualifications of the applicants.
- Candidates will come back to the regular session to make a decision
- Commissioners will review Interview Questions; staff will clean them up.

- Commissioners will meet before the interview to accept final questions
- Commissioners will not be sending questions ahead of time. Candidates will have an opportunity to ask questions
- The agenda for the day will be as follows:
  - 11:45 Commissioners connect to WebEx meeting
  - 11:50 – 12:10 Interview candidate#1 in a WebEx breakout room
  - 12:10- 12:15 Commissioner’s break
  - 12:15- 12:35 Interview candidate #2 in a separate WebEx breakout
  - 12:40 –12:50 Commissioners go into an Executive meeting in a third separate breakout room
  - 12:50- 1:00 Commissioners make final decision in a regular public session back in the regular WebEx meeting.
  - 1:00- 1:15 Announcements Adjourn
- **ZOOM Platform vs WebEx Commissioners** expressed their preference to use ZOOM platforms for upcoming meetings, as advised by City Attorney’s office, staff will explore options and get back to Commissioners for details about future meetings.

## **Questions & Prompts for Redistricting Commission Candidates**

- **City Staff:** Introductions and overview (public meeting, Recorded. We have 20 minutes for 4 questions)
- **Commissioner Eliseo Juarez:** Please tell us about your professional and personal experiences that you believe prepare you to serve as a member of the Redistricting Commission: Why do you wish to serve the city in this capacity?
- **Commissioner Greg Nickels:** You have had an opportunity to review basic commitments for service on this Commission (*at a high level*)-are you able to commit the time required for service and full participation? Please tell us about your philosophy about engaging in this process as a commissioner. What are your top considerations when guiding decisions and setting potential boundaries/maps?
- **Commissioner Neelima Shah:** How would you make sure that the districting process is open and transparent: What needs to be done to ensure that district lines are drafted and adopted in a way that maximizes fairness and equity in the new district map?
- **Commissioner Rory O’Sullivan:** Being on any board can be challenging, Commissioners may disagree, community members might be critical, and decisions could be difficult. Please describe your experience facilitating or participating in a public forum or other challenging group dynamic.
- **Commissioner Eliseo Juarez:** Do you have any questions for us?
- **City Staff:** Share next steps: Commissioners will continue interview or Commissioners will now meet in an Executive Meeting to discuss interviews and then will meet in the public meeting space to make a decision. Candidates will be notified today after 1:15 of next steps

## VIX. Next Meetings Discussion

- **Commissioner O’Sullivan:** It is important to note for folks that we are the first Redistricting Commission. I have had conversations with King County commissioners who have had candid meetings with different groups while holding less than the number of commissioners they would have for quorum. My thinking taking this into consideration is that this may factor into the 60-meeting commitment, and that perhaps commissioners could be absent for a certain number of meetings provided quorum is met.
- **City Attorney’s office Gary Smith:** As long as the subcommittee didn’t make any decisions they could meet so long as they don’t meet the number required for quorum.
- **Commissioner O’Sullivan:** We are required to have one meeting in each district, the expectation is that all five commissioners would be attending those meetings. I expect we’ll be doing more outreach than just those seven meetings. Establishing how we do outreach is important from early on.
- **Commissioner Shah:** It’s important that when the commission is fully selected, that we put together a schedule and workplan to plan ahead to make it work with our schedules.
- **Commissioner Nickels:** Agreed, when the fifth commissioner and Districting Master is on board, we can have a clearer decision in terms of making a finalized timeline.
- **Next meeting**
  - **Candidate Interviews October 21 11:15- 1:15**
  - **The four commissioners have tentatively agreed on holding the following meetings after that:**
    - **Wednesday October 27<sup>th</sup> 11:45- 1:15**
    - **Tentatively the following Tuesdays in November from 11:45- 1:15 but will confirm after the fifth Redistricting Commissioner is appointed and has shared their availability.**

## IX. Next meeting time and announcements

- **Staff EBB:** On Tuesday, October 26 from 12:00pm-1:30pm, the Department of Neighborhoods has an upcoming event around redistricting. The series is called I Love Census Data series and the event is called Redistricting 101, where we will go over basic redistricting data information. It is a community conversation session about data, and this is part of our outreach and engagement efforts. We plan on introducing the Redistricting Commission and what they will be doing, as well as some of the data and mapping tools that have come out around Redistricting from the 2020 Census. We will cover this and inform the public on why the redistricting process is important. We will be sharing data from OPCD from their maps and resources section. If anyone has any comments or questions this is a public education session that we are in charge of as well and we are looking forward to beginning the community education and engagement pieces at the same time that this commission is beginning to come together.

## X. Adjourn

- Next meeting is October 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:45am-1:15pm.
- Staff will send information about Fifth Commissioner Position to candidates, including time commitments and asking their availability
- Staff will send out calendar invites for upcoming meetings

- Commissioners will send their feedback on interview questions for final edits
- Questions and comments, please send them to [Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov](mailto:Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov)