

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 14th, 2021

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on January 11, 2022

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

Commissioners Absent: N/A

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

Guests: Greg Babinski: King County GIS Center and District Master Candidate, Dennis Higgins: King County GIS Center and District Master Candidate, Tamara Davis: King County GIS Center and District Master Candidate, Judge Ann Schindler: King County Districting Committee Chair, Patrick Hamacher: King County, Tania Santiago Pastrana: King County, Ariel Schneier: City Attorney’s Office, Gary Smith: City Attorney’s Office, Jenn Brandon: Department of Neighborhoods, Harvey Arnone: City of Seattle IT – GIS Manager

(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 12:03 PM once the Redistricting Commissioners were all present.

II. Welcome & Housekeeping

- Reading of the agenda, welcome

III. Agenda Review

- 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 Malaba. The agenda was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Public Comment

- No one from the public was present for public comment or registered via our website beforehand.

- Staff Explained and made note on how there will be always a time for public comment during commission meetings.

V. Minutes Approval

- Approval for the 12.07.21 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Shah and seconded by Commissioner Nickels. The 12.07.21 meeting minutes were then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

VI. District Master Candidate Interviews

• Copy of District Master Interview Questions asked by Redistricting Commissioners:

- o **Presentation**
- o **Commissioner Juarez:** Tell us more about experience you have had navigating high-profile and controversial/sensitive/contentious community processes.
- o **Commissioner Malaba:** Please expand on your approach to integrating principles of racial equity and representation; Can you share your successful experience integrating equity analysis into prior projects and how principles of racial equity and representation will be integrated for this project.
- o **Commissioner Nickels:** Tell us about your communication strategy for presenting drafts and proposed plans to commissioners, public and other technical professionals during the project.
- o **Commissioner Shah:** (If not presented yet) Please elaborate on how your firm will present potential map implications to the commission.
- o **Commissioner O’Sullivan:** Questions from Applicant and Answers from Commissioners
- o Staff shares next steps
- **[Interview 3: Greg Babinski, Dennis Higgins, Tamara Davis – King County GIS Center](#)**
 - o Greg Babinski, Dennis Higgins, and Tamara Davis from King County GIS Center gave a presentation, and then Seattle Redistricting Commissioners asked pre-assigned questions and any follow-up questions, took questions from the candidate, and then shared next steps, including the information that the Commission will select the District Master and inform candidates of the result on December 14th.

VII. District Master Selection Discussion

- Seattle Redistricting Commissioners spoke on the qualifications of the three District Master candidates. The Redistricting Commissioners spoke about their rankings of the candidates, and considered staffing capacity, the materials candidates sent in response to the Request for Proposals, and how thorough answers to the interview questions were for each candidate.

VIII. District Master Decision

- Seattle Redistricting Commissioner Nickels motioned for a vote to approve King County GIS Center as the District Master consultant. Commissioner Malaba seconded this motion. Seattle Redistricting Commissioners voted to approve King County GIS Center as the District Master unanimously, with five yes votes. Redistricting Commissioners agreed to refer to King County GIS Center as the Districting GIS Consultant, referring to the position of district master as articulated in the City of Seattle Charter.
- Commission Chair O’Sullivan proposed engaging with Smash the Box for the Outreach portion of the Redistricting work, to be discussed at a future meeting.

IX. King County Districting Committee

- Judge Ann Schindler, Chair of the King County Districting Commission and Patrick Hamacher, and Tania Santiago Pastrana from King County staff gave Seattle Redistricting Commissioners a presentation on their experience during the King County Redistricting process, their feedback on the King County GIS Center as their District Master, and shared lessons learned and advice for the Seattle Redistricting Commission's work. They also shared the importance of working with community leaders, using local translators, and stating in the invitations that an event is co-hosted by a community leader or community organization for increased likelihood of more community members attending the event. King County Districting Committee will be sending a final report on their process for Seattle Redistricting Commissioners' reference.
- **Next meetings**
 - o The next meeting will be on January 11th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

X. Adjourn

- The Seattle Redistricting Chair O'Sullivan asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Malaba 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 January 11th, 2022, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 12.14.21 minutes or the tentative schedule for 2022 before the next meeting
- Staff will be in contact to have Commissioners sign the contract for King County GIS Center and will be sending materials for their reference and approval related to said contract and workplan timelines during the break until the first meeting of 2022.
- Commission staff will send out calendar invites for upcoming meetings
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov