

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 1st, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on February 3rd, 2022

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

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Commission Staff and Guests: Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods, Dennis Higgins: Districting GIS Consultant, Mary Ullrich: King County GIS Center, 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

- Public Disclosure was added to the 2.1.22 meeting agenda before the GIS Mapping Tool training item. The agenda was then motioned for approval by Commissioner O’Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Nickels. The agenda was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 1.25.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The minutes for the 1.25.22 meeting were then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

V. Public Comment

- Colleen McAleer, President of the Laurelhurst Community Club Council gave public comment on the need for the Redistricting Commission to factor in geographic boundaries and issues like transportation needs into the development of the new district maps. An example is they are

affected by what happens through the Montlake bridge and in the new State District we now in the south of it and the priorities are different located in an area that is north of the ship canal our community, they also find themselves now in a neighborhood residential area and that area is now affiliated with South Lake Union, with towers and research institutions, and things that are not similar. They asked the commission to focus on the geography of the area as they make their final decisions.

VI. Acknowledgement of received public comments

- Staff discussed with the commission on what their preferences would be for recording and posting submitted public comments.
- Redistricting Commissioners brought up having staff find a way to post a document link to the website, so that the public and the commissioners can access the public comments that have been submitted thus far.

VII. Public Disclosure

- The commission discussed and recognized the need to establish a process to disclose potential conflict of interests.
- After a discussion, the commission asked staff to review proposed process with and Ethics Advisor to ensure the commission has clear criteria and definition of potential conflict of interest to move forward.
- Districting GIS Consultant Dennis Higgins brought up a potential conflict of interest where one of the members of his team is a volunteer for an organization that will likely be submitting map proposals to the commission. Staff reviewed this with the Ethics Advisor and saw no major conflict.
- City Assistant Attorney Ariel Schneier recommended to look at Chapter 4.16 in the Seattle Municipal code of ethics section as a guide for the Redistricting Commission to adhere to going forward.

VIII. GIS Mapping Tool Training

- Mary Ullrich from the Districting GIS consultants for Seattle Redistricting Commission, gave the Redistricting Commission a training on how to use the interactive GIS Mapping Tool that they will be utilizing to draw and finalize the new district maps.
- The Districting Consultant team will continue editing and updating this interactive map, as there will be updates to include the 2020 Census results.
- City Staff will also be in contact with community partners to find ways to ensure that unhoused populations and a list of locations where unhoused individuals reside will be included for consideration in terms of where people are living as the draft maps are formed and updated.
- City Staff will upload a link to the interactive map to the Redistricting Commission's website.

IX. Discussion: Need for Additional Training

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah facilitated a conversation around potential trainings with the Districting GIS Consultant. Redistricting Commissioners can either solicit as a group during a public meeting or individually for one-on-one training needs to have a deeper dive into the data and software tools and mentoring.

X. Next meetings

- o Next meeting will be on February 3rd, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- o The February 8th 2022 meeting is tentatively canceled

- Future meetings may look different, as there will be forums and listening sessions that only part of the Redistricting Commission will need to attend. City Staff recommended that Redistricting Commissioners look at their schedules ahead of time and to come up with different times and days of the week that they might be available.

Adjourn

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nickels motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Malaba seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday February 3rd 2022, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 2.01.22 minutes before the next meeting.
 - Commission staff will send out calendar invites for upcoming meetings for every Tuesday at noon through March.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov