

## SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### MINUTES

Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on (TBD)

**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, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney, Dennis Higgins: Districting GIS Consultant

---

(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 12:08 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 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 2.03.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Malaba and seconded by Commissioner Nickels. The minutes for the 2.03.22 meeting was passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

##### **V. 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.

**VI. Received public comments**

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah acknowledged that the Commission has received written public comments since the last meeting.

**VII. Press release approval**

- Plan is for the PDFs of the consultant-based maps will be released along with the press release on 2.16.22. Question of process came up in terms of if the Commission has to approve the press release as a group, or if the Commission Chair has the authority to approve press releases themselves. City staff will investigate this language and get back to the Commission.

**VIII. Process conversation**

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah led a discussion among the Commission as to how they will go forward to get from four maps to one map draft that they will bring to the public for feedback. The Commission discussed whether they would prefer to have the four map drafts, public listening sessions, one round of public forums per district before narrowing it down to one map that will be used going forward for the second round of one public meeting per district, versus having the four maps presented at listening sessions, narrowing it down to one map, then having two rounds of public forums per district to perfect the final draft maps, in line with staff recommendations.
- The Commission asked DON Staff EBB to determine how the alternative to the staff recommendation would fit into the timeline and how logistically feasible it is, and report back to the Commission.

**IX. Presentation of 4 GIS Consultant-based maps**

- Dennis Higgins presented the four map drafts, that will be re-labeled as Alternatives 1-4. Two of the maps were generated by a computer algorithm, with one map being generated in respect to contiguousness, versus the other which was generated in respect to not altering or splitting up neighborhood groups and current School District Director boundaries. The other two maps were generated by staff from King County GIS Center, with one map being generated in respect to contiguousness, versus the other which was generated in respect to not altering or splitting up neighborhood groups and current School District Director boundaries.
- The Commission asked Assistant City Attorney Ariel Schneier to check in with Dennis to go over specifics on the database that the maps are based on, to ensure that the Commission has all the information needed to make sure that as many people as possible are considered into the maps, including unhoused populations and populations of folks who are not U.S. citizens.
- Commissioner Juarez asked Dennis to work with Staff to pare down the landmarks map to make it more useful to Commissioners by focusing in more on areas that are important to the community as civic landmarks like libraries or community centers, as opposed to all landmarks including things like monuments.
- Staff confirmed that the four maps will be uploaded as PDF files on the Seattle Redistricting Website

**X. Set up working sessions with GIS team by April**

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah let the Commission know that they can either meet individually with the Districting GIS Consultant, or they can meet in groups of no more than two to not be considered quorum for a public meeting. Assistant City Attorney Ariel Schneier let the Commission know that they need to ensure that there is not indirect sharing or approval of any specific map drafts to avoid any kind of violation of OPMA guidelines.

## **XI. Next meetings**

- Next meeting will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- Commissioner O’Sullivan will step in as Commission Chair at this meeting, as Commission Chair Neelima Shah cannot attend. Commissioner Nickels motioned for approval, Commissioner Juarez seconded, and the motion was passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.
- 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 Juarez seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.
- Staff will determine how the alternative to the staff recommendation would fit into the timeline and how logistically feasible it is, and report back to the Commission.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 2.15.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to [Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov](mailto:Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov)