

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 1st, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on March 8th, 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, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney, Marc Mayo: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

(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 12:05 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 Malaba and seconded by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The agenda was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 2.22.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Malaba. The minutes for the 2.22.22 meeting were then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.
- A note was given to staff that future minutes should stay away from the use of acronyms so that the minutes are more accessible.

V. Public Comment

- Joanna Cullen signed up for public comment and asked the commission about getting as much detail as possible on the district maps and encouraged the commission to have as much detail as

possible and asked if they have this information divided up by precinct. Staff will be working with Dennis to get the Dave's Redistricting app and instructions up on to the website. The commission recommended that Dennis or Dave himself layer in the four starter maps as layers on to Dave's Redistricting map.

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

VI. Redistricting law follow up

- Assistant City Attorney Ariel Schneier revisited the topic of Communities of Interest and whether it's permissible to consider a shared language. The answer is yes that language as a classification is not held to the same standard of scrutiny for race or national origin. One caution is that a Community of Interest can't stand a proxy for race, including shared language.

VII. Communities of Interest Discussion

- Staff Elsa Batres-Boni gave the Redistricting Commission an overview of guidelines around Communities of Interest in relation to the redistricting process. The commission recommended that moving forward using this presentation to explain communities of interest to folks will help facilitate constructive input from the community.

VIII. Conflict of Interest Discussion

- Marc Mayo from the Ethics and Elections Commission gave the Commission a presentation on criteria on the specifics of what potential conflicts of interest might be. Some clear lines for disclosing would be: If someone appears before the commission and you have a financial or familial relationship you would need to disclose that. If you have a financial interest in any decision points, Commissioners need to disclose that. If you have friends or family or other business that can be affected by redistricting financially you will need to disclose that. In short, advice was given to the commission that it is better to disclose often and disclose early.
- If a City Counselor reaches out on an informational basis to inform their respective districts about the Redistricting, process answering those questions would be fine. However, if a City Counselor tries to influence or recommend any specific course of action for a Redistricting Commissioner, that would need to be disclosed during a public meeting.
- One definition would be that when the appearance of any conflict of interest is apparent to any reasonable person with all the facts would have good cause to believe that there is a conflict.
- It is best practice to disclose a conflict of interest during a meeting on a specified agenda item. If a commissioner has a question related to a potential conflict of interest, please contact Marc Mayo from the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission.
- Marc Mayo will send the Redistricting Commissioners the updated version of the financial disclosure form for the year of 2022.

IX. Outreach Update

- Staff Elsa Batres-Boni gave the Redistricting Commissioners an update on where we are at in terms of the outreach efforts, including a scheduling of the first listening session on March 16th in the Central District Yesler Terrace Community Council in addition to multiple educational sessions with the Wallingford Community Council and the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.
- For Outreach events, such as listening sessions, the plan going forward will be for 1-2 commissioners to sign up for a single session to avoid any Open Public Meetings Act violations. If

we have more than two Commissioners sign up, Department of Neighborhoods staff will coordinate to ensure that there will be two commissioners at most present at a single session.

X. Next meetings

- The next meeting will be on March 8th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- We will include an agenda item at future meetings where a commissioner can disclose any potential conflicts.
- 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, the first listening sessions are coming up and staff will be sending out a tracker with dates that Commissioners can sign up to attend.

Adjourn

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Malaba motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner O’Sullivan seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday March 8th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 3.01.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov