

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on March 29th, 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, Lisa McLean: Executive Director at WA State Redistricting Commission, Justin Bennett: WA State Redistricting GIS Analyst, Mary Ullrich: 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 12:02 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 for the 3.22.22 meeting was then motioned for approval by Commissioner Malaba and seconded by Commissioner Nickels. The agenda was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 3.08.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner O'Sullivan. The minutes for the 3.08.22 meeting was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

V. Public Comment

- Steve Horvath Belltown Resident (Downtown Seattle) attended this meeting noted that he submitted a map template for folks to use and that going through the exercise of balancing

districts to make the population numbers work and figuring out that balance was a detailed process. Steve also mentioned that the concept of districts wasn't always a concept and challenged commissions to consider the following questions about representation for downtown as the most densely populated area: Will districts be splitting up the downtown area? Or will downtown be made into one district that is representing the interests of all individuals who reside in the downtown area.

VI. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

- Commissioners acknowledged that they have reviewed the latest submitted public comments.

VII. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- No disclosures were made

VIII. SB 5583 by State Commission

- Lisa McLean Director o and GIS analyst Justin Bennett from the Washington State Redistricting Commission gave the Redistricting Commission an overview of the history of SB 5583, and how other state Redistricting Commissions have adapted to and updated their mapping information by coordinating with their various justice departments to get up-to-date residential information from incarcerated individuals and those included under SB 5583.

IX. GIS Update

- Mary Ullrich, from the GIS consulting team gave the Redistricting Commission an update on what next steps will be in regard to the new data provided by the SB 5583 bill by the State Commission and will do an analysis to see if there will be any significant impact on the accuracy of the draft maps. If it is found that there is an impact, King County GIS Center will include this new data into their four draft maps.

X. Outreach Update

- Elsa Batres-Boni noted that all community listening, and feedback sessions will be posted on our website at least 24 hours in advance. Elsa gave the Redistricting Commission an overview of three different options for the outreach plan. The Redistricting Commission will review each of the plans and make a final vote on which plan to pursue at the next meeting.
 - **Option A:** One set of public forums with the four current draft maps, taking place from May to July 2022.
 - **Option B:** Two sets of seven public forums in each district, with the first set of forums taking place during April and May 2022 with the commission presenting the four draft maps, and a second set of seven public forums taking place during June and July 2022 with the commission presenting one draft map for community feedback.
 - **Option C:** One set of 7 public forums taking place June and July 2022 with the four draft maps and one final public forum taking place in August or September that will have all districts in attendance for feedback on one draft map.

XI. Redistricting Law Updates

- The Commission did not have time to attend to this agenda item this week.

XII. Next meetings

- The next meeting will be on March 29th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

XIII. Public Comment - Continued

- Joanna Cullen Central Area resident spoke to get clarity on the outreach options and encouraged the redistricting commission to collect input on the draft maps as early as possible

prior to going down to one map. Joanna mentioned that any public forum for all the districts in one meeting would need to be a much longer meeting, and that her preference would be for Option B.

XIV. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O’Sullivan 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 March 29th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 3.22.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov