

## SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### MINUTES

Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as Amended by the Commission

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

---

**Commissioners Absent:** Patience Malaba

---

**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 12:05 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 for the 3.29.22 meeting was then motioned for approval by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The agenda was then passed by the Commission unanimously with four yes votes.

##### IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 3.22.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner O’Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Nickels. The minutes for the 3.22.22 meeting was then passed by the Commission unanimously with four yes votes.

##### V. Public Comment

- Andrew Mosser Hong, statewide coordinator for Redistricting Justice for Washington signed up to provide public comment. Andrew shared what the coalition is about and shared four values for the Seattle Redistricting Coalition process:

- 1. Transparency of data and process making sure that all the data being used and how the commission is making its decisions and making its process transparent to the public.
- 2. Giving equitable and accessible opportunity for community input for residents of the city of Seattle.
- 3. Keeping communities of interest together, especially BIPOC communities and protecting the voting rights of people of color as well as renters from working class communities and young voters.
- 4. Prioritizing people and communities over partisan interests and politicians.
- Andrew posed two questions for the commissioners: To hear what these values are to each of the commissioners, and if the commission is interested in valuing protecting the voting rights of people of color through majority minority districts in this process and asked if the commission could provide focused questions to be asked at specific local community meetings that Redistricting justice for Washington may be hosting in the future.

**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. GIS Update**

- Dennis Higgins, from the GIS consulting team gave the Redistricting Commission an update on what next steps will be regarding the new data provided by the SB 5583 bill. An initial analysis found that there is no significant impact on the populations in each district, and that the commission can use the same maps moving forward.

**IX. Outreach Updates and Plan Decision**

- Elsa Batres-Boni led a conversation on the potential options for the Commissioners to choose going forward in terms of the outreach plan for the Redistricting Commission.
  - **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.
- Out of the three outreach plan options, the Commissioners voted to approve Option C as the outreach plan.

**X. Next meetings**

- The next meeting will be on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

**XI. Public Comment - Continued**

- Joanna Cullen Central Area resident spoke on the outreach plan, and that if commissioners go with option c, her concern was about making sure the timeline for that final draft map is well in advance of any public meeting the whole big public meeting so that people can discuss it and then some so how once that draft map is published and you just have one big meeting people

will want to comment on it and so they can come to these meetings and comment on it prior to the big public meeting and how the commission is going to respond to in a timeline of how you're going to respond to those coming to the final map, so people have time to think on the map draft that is released.

**XII. Adjourn**

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nickels motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner O'Sullivan seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with four yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 3.29.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to [Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov](mailto:Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov)