

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on October 18, 2022

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

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Commission Staff and Guests: Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods, Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney, Mary Ullrich: Districting GIS Consultant, 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

- To follow the recent amendment by Governor Inslee [House Bill 1329](#), of the Open Public Meeting Act to increase the accessibility of and participation in public meetings. This meeting was held online and in a physical location at the City of Seattle L280 Boards and Commissions Room on floor L2 at 600 4th Avenue, Seattle WA, 98104.
- This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM once the Redistricting Commissioners had quorum.

II. Welcome & Housekeeping

- Reading of the agenda, welcome and land acknowledgement

III. Agenda Review and approval

- There were no questions or concerns from the Commissioners on today’s agenda for the 10.12.22 meeting. Commissioner O’Sullivan motioned for a vote to approve the agenda, with an amendment that they have a discussion on the amendment process and schedule prior to public comment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nickels. The agenda with the proposed amendments for 10.12.22 was then passed unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Minutes approval

- The 10.04.2022 and 10.08.2022 meeting minutes were up for approval at today’s meeting.

- The 10.04.2022 minutes were motioned for approval by Commissioner Shah with a second from Commissioner O'Sullivan. The 10.04.2022 minutes were approved with four yes votes, with one abstention from Commissioner Nickels as he was not present at the 10.04.2022 meeting.
- Commissioner Shah asked City Staff to add commissioner comments at the closing of the 10.08.2022 public forum to the 10.08.2022 meeting minutes. Staff was instructed to add this to the 10.08.2022 minutes prior to the 10.18.2022 regular meeting for approval.

V. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

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

VI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- Redistricting Commissioners noted that they did not have any potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

VII. Amendment Process and Redistricting Timeline Discussion

- Redistricting Commissioners and City Staff discussed the potential timeline for submitting the final draft map and amendment proposals. The agreed-upon timeline can be found as Exhibit A at the end of these meeting minutes.

VIII. Public Comment

- **Tara Gallagher** - "Hi I'm Tara Gallagher I'm a resident of current District Six and I'm here again to ask that no part of Fremont be put in District Seven it's not about dividing Fremont in three anywhere near as much as it is about our complete lack of any relationship with the rest of District Seven if Fremont somehow were divided among three districts north of the canal which you know isn't logically possible it would be less than ideal but acceptable the part of Fremont that's currently in District Four the part west east of 99 manages is there concerns are connected to and shared with Wallingford because Fremont relates to Wallingford and Ballard and Finney we consider those our neighbors we know what's happening there we have favorite restaurants and preferred hardware stores in those neighborhoods we know are the quiet encampments and the loud bars are in those areas we know the libraries playgrounds the bus stops and potholes and bad drainage areas and the fire stations and substations their City issues and ours intermingle we are a United Community we can walk to Ballard if any or take one bus now when you cross the Fremont bridge towards Queen Anne you're looking at a lot of no streets or do not enter we don't even go off into Queen Anne because the driving connection is not easy walk-in connection incredibly difficult to get there by bus takes going downtown and doubling back on a second bus Queen Anne flows into Uptown into downtown That's The Logical District however it looks on paper Fremont is not in any practical or spiritual way a contiguous neighborhood to Queen Anne and the rest of District Seven are logical city council District connections are here north of the water the connection between Interbay and Magnolia and Ballard is a lot closer the 15th Avenue Bridge goes directly to residences and businesses on both sides with easy connecting access since the district has across the water that's a logical connection Fremont and Queen Anne is not I would ask that Commissioners to please respond to the concern that Fremont is not connected to District 7. and further asked for a comment on concerns that going across the water twice in district 6 and 7 violates the requirement that to the extent practical boundary shall follow existing waterways thank you for your time and attention thank you."
- **Ann Goos** - "We um want to say something from the chamber that I think is really important after Saturday we want to be fully on record and we have talked to the fine folks of redistricting

Justice for Seattle on phone calls that we really do support the efforts of all Seattle residents that are dedicated to ensuring that marginalized underrepresented communities are kept together particularly evident in the newly proposed districts one and two we have never been against the fine work that they've done or the time that they have spent working on this and we applaud that districts one and two r d communities of interest and reflect the work of the redistricting Justice coalition all of our neighborhoods should be heard in the redistricting process as it does indeed make Seattle a more Equitable just an inclusive place for residents to engage with their elected council members a unified Magnolia aligns with this vision for Seattle and it recognizes other communities needs and the redistricting Charter goals we support the redistricting commission's ongoing efforts that keeps as many identified communities of Interest whole while avoiding fracturing communities to the most extent practical we're confident that the commission will find these win-win Solutions and we strongly support your ongoing efforts to listen and to respond to public comments and address concerns we do maintain that Magnolia is a definable community of interest but that does not mean that we don't support the goals of keeping districts one and two together we simply as a community want to stay together because as we have talked about the unique geography and topography we also know that some of our issues aren't particularly lofty and may not seem as important as others but for those of us who use Bridges three of them to get in and out those are people issues how we get in and out of our neighborhood is some of the most personal issues particularly if you've ever experienced like West Seattle in District 2 you lose a bridge that's an impact on everyday lives of citizens that are important to remember we again thank you for your hard work we heard the passion on Saturday we've listened and we just want to say we are dedicated to keeping all of Seattle as Equitable as possible thank you."

- **Erik Pihl** - "Good afternoon Commissioners my name is Erik Pihl and I'm a member of the Fremont neighborhood Council board uh I've heard in one of the past meetings that it was talked about that Fremont and North Queen Anne um work together that's not that may be true and the commercial side and the Chamber of Commerce but with as we look at issues around the residents of Fremont which is who we represent the issues are alike with Wallingford and with Ballard we are part of the North Precinct uh we're a very activist oriented community and as you've read in our letter and we've worked very hard in collaboration with the North Precinct and with the city attorney's office and with the city council in the past to deal address major public safety issues and we've done that successfully um we um see that we are better aligned to being on the north side of the ship canal because otherwise moving is part of District Seven we are a small voice in a much more larger District that may not be heard we are a district of a lot of renters and Workforce housing and so um and a growingly diverse neighborhood and so um we would obviously prefer to be as one entire District altogether but we recognize that's not practical we found a way to make it work to be in two um District Four and District Six makes the most sense if it's not practical to be in one then in in two and day six and four then we would propose moving the entire District uh entire neighborhood into District Four if possible those are my comments thank you."
- **Andrew Hong** - "Hi Commissioners my name is Andrew Hong I'm a resident in District 2 and a Statewide coordinator of the Redistricting Justice for Washington Coalition um today I want to you know after the overwhelming public testimony on October 8th public hearing um sorry uh we believe that the commission that the commission is truly dedicated to making this a public

guided and informed process that works for the whole city the commission should adopt the RJS map corresponding changes over three-fourths of the testifiers who came from all seven districts including Coalition members and just regular residents who aren't a part of the Coalition but support rjs in the public came on Saturday and voiced their support for the Redistricting Justice for Seattle map this is the first time the public can shape our own districts in the Seattle City council and the commission should act accordingly to the majority of the public not just one neighborhood to fulfill this promise to the residents of Seattle and so because of that the RGS Coalition submitted a memo yesterday or two days ago with a series of three different amendments that we urge the Commissioners to consider and vote on in the in these final few weeks the First full detail and description and maps of these amendments can be found I think in your email I sent it to the city redistricting commission email the first amendment that we'd like you all to consider is a full adoption of the RGS map Amendment a second amendment that we proposed is the quote unquote Green Lake amendment in which I respond to public comment and Coalition members from the Green Lake Meridian Roosevelt area would move all of Green Lincoln Meridian into District Four and subsequently move Wedgwood from district four to five and Greenwood would be fully reunited in just district 6 and by taking part from District Five and putting those parts of Greenwood in District Six and then the third amendment that we urge the commission to consider is has already been proposed by commissioner Malaba but it is to um keep Fremont within District 4 and 6 and subsequently move the district seven and six boundary um to 28th Avenue in Magnolia a full description on maps of these moments can be found in the memo as well as our own reasoning for each of these different amendments thank you."

- **Joseph Lachman** - "Thank you Commissioners for the opportunity to speak again my name is Joseph Shoji Lachman uh policy manager at Asian counseling and referral service and also redistricting Justice for Seattle um I just want to take a moment again to emphasize that uh in alignment of course we have Andrew as well that we believe the commission uh really should approve um just the map proposal that's been put forward by Redistricting Justice for Seattle based on the amount of community input that has gone into it and the fact that um it splits communities um as little as possible in terms of uh splitting residents from uh you know their main Council District um again also like to emphasize that for me personally I grew up and I spend most of my life in the Magnolia area while I am a currently a district to resident um I'm deeply familiar with the geography and just the you know how Magnolia are the things laid out and uh you know my parents um still live in Magnolia at 27th Avenue um they have been renters all their lives and there it is um a fact that just a large number of renters do live on the other side of 28th Avenue and yes um I understand concerns about splitting our communities but again I believe that uh folks in Fremont have also spoken up on their own behalf that Fremont should not be split into three districts um just to keep Magnolia whole and at the same time I know some Magnolia are brought up concerns that issues like the Magnolia Bridge uh being addressed you know it's important but Magnolia being in two districts would not preclude uh residents being able to speak up to multiple council members about the bridge issue being addressed and I fully believe that you know Magnolia will still be able to have um you know their inability to shape out their Community you know is treated by their local government um will also be much more fair to other communities who are also seeking to have Equitable representation again please uh let me encourage you to pass the Redistricting Justice to adopt

the Redistricting Justice for Seattle proposal because of how it was incorporated uh hundreds of members of communities feedback and does the best job of keeping communities in uh in their own um keeping their critical in their own districts um and again thank you for the opportunity to speak and please um I hope you'll uh ensure that there are opportunities for community members to um give comment before um again before the commission makes their final vote thank you."

- **Linda Clifton** - "Hi this is Linda Clifton I'm a member of the Fremont neighborhood Council board we sent you some comments and I want to reiterate the main points here but first I want to say thank you for the hard work that this really is I think today's discussion of scheduling illustrates how difficult it is I also want to say that Tara Gallagher who spoke before was quite elegant eloquent on a number of the issues that we in Fremont feel about being split and being split in a way that makes us have to cross the ship canal in order to be in District Seven and then to be in three districts not two we have been able to operate in two districts four and six since districting was established we have already written one letter that said we would we would accept being in two districts we also written a second letter in which we have serious concerns about being in three and particularly about District Seven um we also suggested in that second letter that we be put into four if that works demographically for population balance our objections are many of the ones that Tara mentioned we are very different from the sections of Queen Anna Magnolia with which we would be lumped but more important putting most of Fremont industry seven violates one of the two of the criteria that the commission itself is supposed to follow that we they recognize follow and recognize recognized waterways and Seattle communities and neighborhoods you have ignored the boundaries of the Fremont neighborhood which have been established for well over 20 years and by crossing the Ship Canal you violate the following recognized waterways tarot has already pointed out many of the difficulties about that worse you also put us in two police precincts the North Precinct where we are now and the West Precinct and that makes for tremendous complications in the relationships that we have built up for Public Safety and for attention to a number of public needs you've made Fremont a tiny minority in all three districts so we please ask you to consider reuniting Fremont at least into if not one District it's important to all of our residents homeowners and renters whom we represent in Fremont thank you very much for your time."
- **Katie Stultz** - "Hi Commissioners my name is Katie Stultz um I'm with the win-win Network as well as the redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition great to see you all again um after Saturday's final forum and really at the tail end of this Marathon process I appreciate all of you for the work that you've done to commit to public engagement and really continuing to listen to so many of us week after week I just wanted to touch on a few key points and really just to reiterate a couple of the Amendments that we had sent forward in a memo earlier this week and specifically from the perspective of a resident here in Green Lake I wanted to lift up an amendment that we had put forward specifically looking at the opportunity to move Green Lake from district 6 into District Four and Wedgewood from District 4 into District 5 and uniting Greenwood from District 5 into District Six I currently live in the Meridian neighborhood which is uh the tail end of South Green Lake and really I can speak to my experience living here that the Roosevelt Meridian and Green Lake neighborhoods are a very cohesive neighborhood the opportunity to unite them into one District into uh District Four I think would be a great opportunity for the final map and so I urge you to pass this amendment this was also in line with

the testimony that we heard on Saturday from community members in this area in closing I also wanted to lift up um really looking at Saturday's Forum over three quarters of the testifiers were from the redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition and so I urge you to honor that overwhelming support and consider the rjs map and related amendments in your final map I also wanted to lift up my appreciation to the Commissioners and your comments earlier uh around the rest of the process and the dates for um making the final decision specifically the commitment to allowing the public the opportunity to hear amendments and really take in feedback and reflect on those changes I heard that from a few of the from for many of you today and so I just wanted to lift up gratitude for that commitment again to ensuring that this process has ample opportunity for feedback as this is the first time the new lines will have had public feedback in the creation of them I look forward to the next steps in seeing the final map and uh wanted to share our support and gratitude to all of your work and to the staff working behind the scenes to make this happen thank you all."

- **Patrick Craft** - "Thank you for uh building this meeting my name is Pat Kraft I work volunteer my time as a senior advisor to the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce have been former president a few times I've also worked on the Magnolia Community Council and I've been deeply involved in a whole variety of community activities and daily life here for some 20 years my work actually takes me all over Seattle through all the neighborhoods and uh it's a great experience enjoying all the Dynamics that we have uh and the shared experience of Seattle I wanted to comment today just to apply a little bit further qualification of who Magnolia is from my experience and work and provide that wider understanding Magnolia in the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce that Chamber of Commerce term can be often misunderstood not the full picture Magnolia functions Chamber of Commerce as a community group maybe in West Seattle you might Envision Chamber of Commerce looking down California Avenue seeing 300 businesses oh that must be the Chamber of Commerce but in Magnolia it's more of a a neighborhood group involved with individuals businesses non-profits it's a collective of our experience in daily life and that's who the Chamber of Commerce is it's a it's a much richer picture than some might initially perceive so I'm calling to thank you for your good works I appreciate what the Redistricting commission is about Magnolia is in full support of recognizing uh communities that have been marginalized or not the voices have been heard we in full endorsement that particularly of what district one District Two is now um is is you know going to end up on this map this is exciting and Rich for everyone and as in all neighborhoods we all need to be heard we're all better for it um it helps Seattle realize our full potential as a place of inclusivity engaging all the communities of the city council and what does the city council do well there's still responsibility is about budgetary issues for daily life we developed the laws promote the health and the safety of all Seattle residents and I know we feel uh thankful for your work and we want to recognize that a unified Magnolia within a district aligns perfectly with the Commission in Seattle's vision and our goals thank you."

IX. Public Education post map submission

- Redistricting commissioners tabled this agenda item, as they would like to discuss this when they have sufficient time for this agenda item.

X. Next regular meetings

- The Redistricting Commission’s next meeting will be a regular public meeting on October 18, 2022 from 12:00pm-1:30pm at the L280 Boards and Commissions Room at City Hall on Floor L2.

XI. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Malaba 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 then passed unanimously with five yes votes.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@Seattle.gov

Exhibit (A) - Timeline

Event	Date	Action	Notes
Regular meeting	Tuesday October 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses changes to the draft • Staff contacts KCE to check on potential changes • Staff posts amendments in discussion 	
Meeting to amend draft based on comments and vote	Tuesday October 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners present any proposed amendment to the current draft • Commissioners discusses and • Votes on amendments • Has a final draft 	Seattle Redistricting Commission decides whether to amend draft map; if the Commission decides to amend, it shall publish the amended draft at least one week before final approval;
Publish new amended map and invite additional written comment	October 18-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff publishes final map • Commission invites additional written comment 	Seattle Redistricting Commission invites additional written comment

Regular meeting possibly voting on final map	Tuesday October 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not other changes or amendments • Commission votes on final map 	
Commission Meeting to Adopt Final Map	TBD November 02 or after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Adopts Final Map 	Seattle Redistricting Commission votes approves and files final plan with City Clerk. (Next day)
File final map to City clerk	November 2		<p>Note that the statutory deadline for the City Clerk to transmit the adopted plan to King County Elections is November 15, 2022.</p> <p>https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/Redistricting/Redistricting-and-census-timeline.aspx</p>