

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on October 31, 2022

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

Commissioners Absent:

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

(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 10.25.22 meeting. Commissioner Shah motioned for a vote to approve the agenda, with a second by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The 10.25.22 agenda was then passed unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Minutes approval

- The 10.18.2022 were up for approval at today’s meeting. The 10.18.2022 minutes were motioned for approval by Commissioner O’Sullivan, with the amendment that the order of Commissioners speaking on the 10.18.22 amendment be corrected, with Commissioner Juarez speaking before Commissioner O’Sullivan. This motion with the included amendment was

seconded by Commissioner Shah. The 10.18.2022 minutes were then passed unanimously with five yes votes.

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. Resolution Update

- City Staff Elsa Batres-Boni gave the Redistricting Commission an update regarding the Map Resolution that will be shared out along with the final approved map. The request was made to commissioners to share in their own words, the reasonings behind each district's final boundary. The Redistricting Commissioners were instructed to share the entire Commission's reasoning behind the boundaries, and not their personal reasonings.

VIII. Public Comment

- **Amy Plantenberg** "Well thank you so much, I really appreciate the opportunity to speak today and to share my thoughts on the redistricting process. I'm in District 7, I'm a member of the Magnolia community. Lifelong Seattle resident, I was born and raised here – one of the few that was actually born and raised and lived in the city proper for most of my life. I am a small business owner, a mom, and as I mentioned I live in the wonderful community of Magnolia. I've been following this process and I appreciate all the time and attention that you all have put into trying to make this redistricting process an equitable one for our entire city. Definitely support the mission of what you're trying to accomplish. What has been frustrating, though, is how Magnolia has been, let me say, almost intentionally, it seems like you're trying to make a point of splitting Magnolia. Just following what's happening in the media, a lot of the comments that tend to come in. I just want to remind everybody that we, yes, while we are a very privileged community, we do have quite a diversity in our neighborhood and just a lot of people here that want to do what we can to support our community and support our city. There's been a wide public outcry, especially over the last couple weeks. You noted the number of comments that came in. By our count, about 97 percent of those comments have been in support of keeping Magnolia whole. We've also had a petition that's been circulated, and we have over 700 signatures from our community and those who support Magnolia to keep Magnolia whole. So, I really would encourage you to go back to the drawing board, look at what you can do to make an equitable map that meets the goals of the entire city, including Magnolia, by keeping us whole. Thank you."
- **Joanna Cullen** I've been following this process, I think I've come to every meeting that you've held. I may have missed one. And I want to thank the commission for one of the most open and transparent processes that I could have imagined. I also want to say that the October 18th map really does achieve equity of empowering the neighborhoods and communities. Especially the ones that have been redlined and often been not included in the power, power decisions. And I want to also mention that I really thank you for listening and interacting with Redistricting for Justice, because I think they did a fantastic job. I have been working with them also. I live in District 3 by the way, and I live in the Central Area. They have been doing a fantastic job of doing outreach and planning and listening to people. I think your new map ensures all the legal

compliance, and it's fair, and your process has been very open. And I so appreciate it. I am very curious to see how you manage the small changes that might happen today. So thank you again.

- **Janice Traven:** I first want to make a comment on behalf of the Magnolia Community Council, which has been operating in this city since 1924. All of those residing in or those who are owners of residences in or work in Magnolia are considered members of the Magnolia Community Council. We are not a dues-paying organization. I personally monitor the Magnolia Community Council inbox and I can verify that despite promises made about outreach to the Magnolia community by commissioners at the October 18th meeting there has been zero contact from the commission about the sudden change in boundaries affecting Magnolia. I want to know why there was no follow-through. At this time, at the time of my comment, there have been 756 signatures gathered to keep Magnolia whole. A link to the petition has been shared with the commission. If you don't value commissions what, about public comments? Since October 18th when these radical changes were reinserted, 560 comments have been posted: 539 of those, 96.3 percent, say keep Magnolia whole. Ten, or 1.7 percent, are unrelated to Magnolia, and 11, 1.9%, support the Malaba map. Whole neighborhoods are what makes this city function. I find it stunning that the arguments that were presented recently by Fremont that its recognized neighborhood boundaries should be preserved, comments about its positive relationship working with neighboring communities, about how they have nothing in common with the neighborhood across the Ship Canal, about being in the North Precinct while the rest of the district is in the West Precinct about how jumping the Ship Canal is a problem -- are honored by the commission when Magnolia has been asserting these exact same arguments for months. Either these issues – particularly preserving neighborhoods – matter to your consideration or they don't. On October 12th Commissioner O'Sullivan stated that his priority is keeping neighborhoods whole as directed by the charter and statute. It's not an impossible task. Four district manager maps, as well as Commissioner Nickels' map, demonstrate that it is practical, feasible and possible to keep Magnolia whole alongside its former District Council partner with whom we share the 15th Avenue corridor, Queen Anne. So, Commissioners, the O'Sullivan-Shah map also kept Magnolia whole. I ask you to do better re-evaluate, Commissioner Nickels' map and see if it could be tweaked to incorporate the tsunami of comments you've received as a result of splitting our community. Thank you.
- **Commissioner Malaba:** Thank you Janice for your comments. I know Commissioner Nickels has his hand up. Before I give him an opportunity to speak, I will just clarify that I certainly know that staff have reached out and followed through in communicating with the Magnolia community. And will be curious if we can be sure that that communication gets to you and by the books closer to the circles you've been in conversations on.
- **Commissioner Nickels:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to clarify. I was asked by one of our colleagues to reach out to the Magnolia community because I had not supported the partitioning of Magnolia. I did reach out as asked to a leader in the community who I have had the opportunity to know and work with in the past. And based on that conversation I suggested that at this point the community was in such a state that I wasn't sure that negotiations were possible, or perhaps desirable. So there was some outreach, but it wasn't very fruitful and again I was on the other side of the issue so I wasn't really in a position to do negotiating. I was more feeling out whether it would be welcome. Thank you.

- **Commissioner Juarez:** I'll be brief. I've also met with two Magnolia community leaders. I did not reach out directly to that group that was mentioned but I had two very fruitful conversations that were informative, and ultimately, I felt that we were they were very good and they informed my work going forward. So, the assertion that we've not met with folks there is incorrect.
- **Dave Bradlee:** Thank you Commissioners. I would like to -- I mean, you're in a quandary here. This is, you know, a pretty tough situation, as these things can come down. So, what I would like to do is I would like to propose a solution to your problem. I think it's a really good solution. It would keep Magnolia whole, it would keep Fremont whole, while at the same time keeping intact all of the key RJS asks. Furthermore, this map would add improvements around Green Lake that a number of commenters including RJS, have asked for, and I think improve Eastlake according to public comments that I have read. I submitted this map Saturday and written comments so the link is there, and I've submitted a couple maps that are sort of along the same theme, but I just want to in short say what this proposal would do. It would keep Magnolia whole in District 6. It would keep Fremont whole in district 6, including the area between Aurora and Stone Way. It would then add Eastlake to District 7. It would also add the few blocks on First Hill southwest of Warren, kind of between Boren and I-5, to District 7. So that would give District 7 enough population. And then it would add the University of Washington to District 3 but leave the U District itself untouched in District 4. So, to be clear all of the University District residences and businesses would remain in District 4. Only the UW campus and its student population would move to District 3. There's enough population there to make the numbers work then. Additionally, this would add Green Lake and Meridian to District 4. Districts 1, 2 and 5 would be unchanged. So the result would be it keeps Magnolia whole, keeps Fremont whole with Ballard and Phinney as they would like, Green Lake and Meridian are reunited with Wallingford and Roosevelt which in the comments you can see people asking for that including uh some from the RJS Coalition. The U District would remain intact and only the student population on the UW campus is moved to District 3. I've not seen anything in the public comment about where the UW student population should land in this process. Also, South Lake Union gets to remain with Belltown and downtown which is a key RJS ask, and then Eastlake would still be whole with South Lake Union and Westlake which in the comments I see would be a plus. It hurts. So, the map maintains all these goals and keeps Magnolia whole. So, I respectfully ask the Commissioners consider this and give the public the opportunity to weigh on it.
- **Ann Goos:** I will just say this, meaning I have the microphone. Not that it will be a surprise. Keep Magnolia whole. Boy, if you want to see grassroots and a real community that has come together over something, this is it. The intensity of which the community cares about staying whole says something about the engagement of this community that is vitally important to Seattle. And I go back to something I said before. Magnolia votes and it votes a lot. It votes often and it and it votes with passion. And those votes are often in support of things that are very important to every neighborhood in Seattle. Our strong levy support should be worth something to Seattle. It's an important part of what keeps Seattle and those public assets vital. Public schools, public libraries, public parks. I hope that as you look at other solutions, the importance of not dividing communities and staying true to what districting is all about and keeping sure that good citizens all throughout the city, in every part of the city, should have the equal chance

to fair representation. Those values are something that you share, I know. You're living it, you're volunteering, you're being part of this Commission. All Magnolia is wanting to do is to stay whole as a single district. We have direct legislative needs with the council. We have important assets that need to be connected to the residents. Please keep us together. Thank you.

- **Linda Clifton:** Thank you for your attempts – first of all, thank you for your work, because this is incredibly detailed and difficult. And as volunteers I'm just in awe of what you're doing. But having said that, the process is not as transparent as you think. The maps are incredibly hard to read, and I've tried several times to read them. The process today is incredibly frustrating because we don't know before we comment what you are actually planning to put on the table. I came today and I signed up today ready to support the Malaba amendment that you adopted at your last meeting. It's supported by Redistricting Justice Seattle which the Fremont neighborhood council has voted to support, and it supports our remaining north of the Ship Canal. It also supports what we said in the beginning we were willing to live with, which was being split between two districts, and we were very gratified that it addressed our real concern about the bulk of Fremont or all of Fremont with one of the iterations being moved entirely into District 7. Which split us from our relationships with the North Precinct and split us from our current relationships laterally north of the Ship Canal. So, while I appreciate what Magnolia is saying, I also appreciate that the amendment we thought was on the table today addresses our real concerns. And now I'm confused – what are you actually going to consider? I don't have enough expertise to understand whether the map that commissioner Nickels is proposing which, he was gracious enough to share with us last week. whether it actually addresses the current concerns of Redistricting Justice Seattle. Because I think those are important concerns for the city of Seattle. So, with all of that said I'm just going to reiterate Fremont's thanks for keeping us at least in only two districts and keeping us north of the Ship Canal, and I look forward to learning what you're actually going to do later in this meeting. Thank you.
- **Commissioner Malaba:** Linda, thank you for all your work in the community. I will clarify that the revised map that we had from the last meeting is what we still have, and then today we are opening the flow for any possible amendment discussions which is what Commissioner Nickels will be sharing, bringing back his map for discussion. We will certainly not be voting today, because we want to allow time for the community to provide as much feedback as you can get with this opportunity. And then we'll be voting on our map next week at the meeting that is set for Monday. With that I will move us along to check if John is now in the room. Otherwise, we have other testifiers who are signed up I know we have two in-person people in the room but before we get to those, we do have Eric.
- **Eric Pihl:** Yes, good afternoon commissioners and I just want to say thank you so much for your service. This is a certainly a challenging effort in which you've engaged, and I appreciate your endeavor to create a fair and just process for this work. This super important work. The Fremont neighborhood council's joined Redistricting Justice Seattle and we fully support their work. Last evening the Fremont neighborhood had an opportunity to gather and to meet with the neighborhood council board and they asked us to convey their appreciation to you for listening to the voices that Fremont has been raising over the last several weeks. So thank you for that. We continue to support the Malaba amendment. And again as you heard from my board colleague Linda Clifton, while the Fremont neighborhood council was divided into two districts in 2013 and we had long hoped to be reunited, we decided early this summer to make a

compromise and to say we're happy to remain divided in districts 4 and 6. That was reconfirmed last evening with the Fremont community. So we're happy to do that and we do appreciate your efforts to please keep us north of the Ship Canal where we are aligned with our neighbors to the east, and to the west, and to the north. Thank you for your time and for your service and thank you for listening to the community.

- **Regan Hurley:** I'm Regan Hurley. I am a Seattle native. I grew up in Wedgewood, went to the University of Washington and then after stints in a few other cities I came back home to Seattle and for the last 20-plus years have lived in Magnolia. So I've previously participated in this in some zooms and then I've watched some recorded sessions. I've submitted comments, and by the way, I'm one of those people who submitted emails, so, sorry. Because I love forms too and I know how much easier that makes it, so I promise next time I will do it that way. You all have an incredibly difficult job, and I have been on similar volunteer committees where you're trying to decide a really difficult problem that requires a lot of input from a lot of people with different needs. So I really appreciate the work you're doing. A couple things. A lot has already been said about Magnolia. I sort of concur with all of those things, but I'm wondering where do we get the information kind of behind the scenes. And I know you have to deliberate but for instance in the conversations that Commissioner Nickels and Commissioner Juarez had with some people in Magnolia – who were those people, and what were those conversations? What was the gist of those conversations and how did they play out, I guess? So that would be a really good thing for all of us to know who are interested in keeping Magnolia whole. And the other question I have is just how many of the commission members have actually ever been to Magnolia. I only moved there 20 years ago, I've never really been to Magnolia before I lived there. We are literally an island. I mean if the landfill hadn't been built in we would be an island. And the only way you can get in and out are by three bridges. If those bridges, which connect to 15th, are gone we do not have reliable access to our neighborhood. It happened during the earthquake and the Magnolia Bridge was down -- that was right when I moved into the neighborhood. If you split the districts as you're currently proposing the people who live in the neighborhood won't have any say over what is happening, or very little say over what's happening, or have an advocate who's going to make sure that we have safe and reliable access to our neighborhood. And you know I really don't know how much people downtown care about whether they get to go in or out of Magnolia but for those of us that live there it's not like we have a choice. We are as I said the only neighborhood in the city that has that limited access. And so please just keep us whole and please keep us whole.
- **Commissioner Malaba:** Thank you Regan for your public comments. I know you requested transparency, and the commissioners have remained very committed to transparency in this process. We will invite them to share as we discuss our amendments at the next agenda item here. Some of those have been, we've been very deliberate in keeping this work very transparent for the public. Does that satisfy your request?
- **David Murray:** Thank you. This is David Murray. I live in the Magnolia community, but I'm very interested in everybody in Seattle feeling that this is a win-win situation for them, and especially to keep neighborhoods together. I want to applaud Commissioner Greg Nickels because his recent map I think is that win-win solution. Not only does it keep Magnolia together as a community, it also keeps Fremont together. For the first time it is no longer split between two districts, and also allows Fremont to be adjacent to its neighbors in Green Lake and to West

Woodland. It uses natural barriers like I-5 to create its districts so there's a physical connection, which is directly related to the City charter that identifies how commissioners should proceed on their work. In terms of justice a very important issue we must understand that we're all in the issue of providing a just Community for everybody in Seattle. This is something that somehow has been focused on Magnolia and when you look at the last election results, you look at Magnolia. Were I live in the northeast portion there's a large group within Magnolia who live in townhouses, apartments, rentals. And we tend to vote. We had voted for Andrew Lewis and other people. So splitting Magnolia into an East and a West will only make things worse. You're going to make Ballard whiter by combining West Magnolia with Ballard and you're going to lose already the amount of apartments and rentals that we have in the east side of Magnolia. So it doesn't really benefit besides the pre-assumptions. Many many many people have written in, as was indicated previously. We know that Nickels has looked at his scheme again, revised some things, made it better, has kept all communities whole. I support Commissioner Nickels's plan. Thank you for listening.

- **Mike Smith:** I'm very pleased to be here. I'm going to just be kind of brief. I live in Magnolia. I moved there with my family in 1961, and immediately got tied almost into Magnolia Village, which has been split in half by this current map that we're living with. I'm retired since 2015. I had a business in Magnolia Village for four and a half decades, and was tied in with the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce from almost the beginning. That where I'm going to kind of focus, on Magnolia Village and the business community. We've always had an interesting relationship with the City of Seattle because people kind of imagine us to be something other than what we are. We're a very middle-class community, in my opinion. Obviously the crown of the hill has wonderful views, and so housing is expensive up there, but it's where I grew up and it was very, very middle class. I still think it is. Magnolia Village is a very good little business district, but it's tiny. I mean we're serving essentially, think it's 21,000 people on that on the bluff. So it's a very small amount of people. Splitting us in half is not going to be good for us at all. And from the Chamber of Commerce standpoint um I've been retired so I haven't really been as active lately as I was because I'm retired. but I'm liable to get myself right back into it now over this issue because under the best of conditions we have to fight for our for what we believe in, which is a fairly progressive underlying bunch of folks. And thank God we've got good neighbors and good businesspeople that actually all work together up there to make Magnolia a good district. We want to keep it a good district. Cutting it in half and cutting the small business district in half, it just doesn't make any sense. So I applaud Mayor Nickels. I'm glad you're involved, because I know you know Magnolia. So let's go forward here and try to take our 21,000 people and keep them whole. Thank you.
- **Patrick Craft:** Yes, thank you for holding this meeting, I appreciate all of your time. I want to thank you for all your efforts. It's tough to get it all into three minutes of course, but let me thank you for your time, your efforts thus far, for your reach for laudable goals that live within the specific charter language that's outlined in your own task. I want to thank you for your diligence and perhaps your own hopes of holding the language of the charter foremost in your minds. I appreciate all the time you took to meet repeatedly as a committee with the public and involving the committee in this grand arc of time that you yourselves outlined. It was clearly intended as a learning process for yourselves and the citizens of Seattle. And as you received this public comment, particularly over the last three meetings, you actively began to inquire

about learning more about Magnolia specifically, specifically, because you found that we were the only community – Magnolia – being drastically ripped apart by some of the latest maps. We actually invited you to Magnolia and the recent flood of Magnolia public comments certainly provide you now with much better insight than I think I ever could. I want to thank you for embracing all of this process. It's been my observation (that) it's been framed by some very critical steps, most of it focused on a very human need to learn. And I understand that you as a committee have met and discussed all the issues at hand and created maps to share with each other. Then you shared them with the public, and I understand now that you have about four or five maps that clearly prove that Magnolia can in fact be kept whole, and in fact in District 7, and all of the other laudable goals that we all hold important can be accomplished. I'm sure that you as generous volunteers to this committee have spent a lifetime knowing and chasing the essence that learning is essential to your growth, and knowledge is empowering. And now you have knowledge about Magnolia, and I hope you carry that forward to a revised map that returns Magnolia to whole while accomplishing the very laudable goals that all of us hold so dear. Thank you.

- **Andrew Hong:** Hi, sorry if my internet is unstable, but my name is Andrew Hong. I am with the Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition. I'm a lifelong resident of Seattle in District 2, and I'm here to testify that the Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition supports the October 18th amended commission draft plan and urges the commission to pass it with minimal or no changes. This map first and foremost follows City Charter, state and federal law under any legal interpretation. Previous versions of the map cross waterways unnecessarily which directly violates Charter guidelines without ending up actually splitting less number of neighborhoods. This current map passed on October 18th completely follows the law. The previous ones did not. I also want to say I've lived on Beacon Hill and gone or I've gone to public school in Beacon Hill for 13 years, and it's a neighborhood that has been unjustly forced to compromise many times. Air traffic flows over our neighborhoods, releasing toxins. There's a toxic freeway right next to us. There's a petroleum pipeline right through our soil. Industrial toxins from the Duwamish River area are within walking distance from us. These decisions made by government of environmental racism against BIPOC communities in Beacon Hill have taken years off my life. What Magnolia is experiencing is something that BIPOC renter and low-income communities have experienced for decades in the city – to compromise for the city largely because wealthy communities like Magnolia and others have had the power to force us to compromise for their benefit. This redistricting split that's being carefully done to follow the law and look out for the whole city in the best way possible is not anywhere near the same level of harm that has been caused to renter BIPOC and working-class communities in Seattle. Magnolia is not more historically important than any other neighborhood. Magnolia is not above compromising for the city when it's needed to make the best legally compliant map for the whole entire city. BIPOC and renter communities have been sacrificing our own lifespans doing that for decades. I also just wanted to add that the Nickels map, it does do some good as all maps do, but there's also serious cons to it. It carves up the U District, it drastically splits downtown it divides Northgate BIPOC communities, it splits Eastlake, it splits Ballard and it contradicts advocacy from Central District community groups to keep downtown separate from the Central Area, among other things. So it would be an incredible step back to pass the Nickels map. For these

reasons, all stated above, I again want to urge the commission to pass the October 18th map with minimal changes. Thank you.

- **Cindi Black:** Good afternoon, commissioners and staff. My name is Cindy Black. I'm the executive director of Fix Democracy First. We're an active member of the Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition. I am testifying today in support of the commission's October 18th amended map plan with minimal changes, if any. As Andrew just stated, this map does follow all City, state and federal requirements, but more importantly it does keep historically underrepresented neighborhoods intact throughout the city especially communities of color, renters, lower-income and younger residents. We understand this map does not please everyone. We've been hearing a lot from Magnolia, and we understand, but this map does keep the vast majority of neighborhoods together, and we think in a fair and equitable way. And for these reasons we recommend the commission formally adopt the amended map as approved by the Commissioners on October 18th. Finally I would like to express my gratitude to the commissioners for their dedication and work on this process. I know it hasn't been easy. Thank you.
- **Theresa Huey:** Good afternoon, commissioners. My name is Theresa Huey. I'm joining the meeting today as a current resident living in District 2, in the Hillman neighborhood. I'm also participating as a of the Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition. I strongly feel that the commission should adopt the October 18th amended map with no or very few changes. This new map otherwise follows all City, state and federal legal requirements. This new map also keeps historically redlined communities intact, renter communities empowered and neighborhoods together in an equitable way throughout the city. My community and most neighborhoods, particularly communities who historically have been underrepresented in our democracy, are well represented in this map. Specifically, following the October 18th amendment, this map ensures legal compliance with the City of Seattle charter by not crossing over the Lake Union Canal waterway more times than necessary. The October 18th amendment also ensures fairness by splitting heavily renter Fremont just two times instead of three times to favor Magnolia. For these reasons the commission should vote to approve the October 18, 2022, amendment map as the final map. Thank you for taking the time and allowing us to share our testimonies with you on this issue that has great impact on our city, but most importantly for hearing what we have to say. It has been a great learning experience for me. Have a great afternoon.
- **Kate Stultz:** Hi commissioners, it's great to see you all today again at the tail end of this process. My name is Katie Stultz, I use she/her pronouns and I am joining from the north Seattle Green Lake neighborhood today. I'm speaking today with the Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition and Win-Win Network. I want to first thank you all for your work over the past seven months to lead this process with transparency, accessibility, and equity. Over the past seven months the Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition and supporters have gathered hundreds of supporters and public feedback from all seven districts in the city over the entire seven-month redistricting process. Our Coalition has worked to maintain consistent presence throughout this process to make sure that the voices of historically divided communities in Seattle have been heard and centered. I wanted to note seeing the comments and some comments that have come through since last week's commission vote, I want to touch and lift up an understanding of the difference between historical communities and historically divided communities in Seattle. The city of Seattle has a long history of dividing BIPOC communities across the city, specifically through

processes of redlining and intentional planning processes to keep BIPOC communities divided as a way to maintain power in whiter and wealthier communities. I've heard a lot from Seattleites over this process who have praised the longevity of how long they have lived and owned their homes in Seattle as a point of reference for how important their comments should be weighted. I would like to lift up that if you've lived in Seattle for multiple decades, you should be even more aware of this history than most. While I empathize with Magnolia community for the changes this map will provide to the number of City Council members they will need to communicate with, I think it's safe to say that their political power will not be diminished based on this. The leadership that this commission has shown over the past seven months in comparison to some of the city redistricting processes across the country right now is historical, and you should all be very proud of your work. You have all maintained transparency, you've led with your values and you have prioritized all voices across Seattle. I urge you to maintain that courage and leadership and pass this map with few changes. And I just want to say a heartfelt gratitude to all of you and the staff that have really worked to balance and prioritize and compromise because that is what redistricting is, while really working to make sure that you've kept an open transparent and accessible process. Thank you for your time this morning. I appreciate it.

- **Carol Burton:** Sorry I didn't know I had the option to unmute. My name is Carol Burton. I'm a resident of District 7, a resident of Magnolia. I wasn't going to speak today because I have written in my comments but I am getting so tired of hearing how the Redistricting Justice folks have done outreach and have gone to every community. I am very involved in the Magnolia community, and I have heard nothing, zero, nothing from the Redistricting Justice Coalition. I'm also a member of the League of Women Voters and they're a member of that Coalition and I've heard zero from them. The only thing I hear is Joanna Cullen on here, and she's not saying a whole lot but that she's certainly not reaching out to her members. Please keep Magnolia whole. I mean Linda Clifton and others, the arguments for keeping Fremont where it is are the same. We are in the West Precinct, not the North Precinct, all of those kinds of things and we are a community. Our geography really defines us as a community because we'll be an island when the bridges go down. Thank you.
- **Cat Cohalas:** OK, I first wish to address first what was mentioned by those who still wish to see Magnolia split and remind our commissioners that Magnolia is in fact an island. And regarding the impact of the freeway on Beacon Hill where would they have suggested that the freeway should have been routed instead in our extremely narrow city? Industrial development naturally occurred in the low-lying areas and the Interbay area between Magnolia and Queen Anne. When I was growing up over six decades ago occurred in the in those low-lying areas and when we would drive through the Interbay flats there were gas vents down there where the Seattle Pacific University playing fields are right now, because those were tide flats which would likely reoccur when the big earthquake strikes and cuts off our island neighborhood. Because in fact as others have been mentioning we are an island. As such I would beseech the commissioners to keep in mind that our city has some natural geographical barriers such as the canal, which have historically been respected as borders for our diverse neighborhoods, which have formed near those geographical borders. And that those borders should be continue to be respected, especially for those from communities that people like myself are most familiar with on

opposite sides of the canal. I want to close by saying thank you so much for your important work and I hope you re-consider mayor Greg Nickels' map. Thank you.

- **Joan Hawkins:** I'm speaking now can you hear me? OK, hello, my name is Joan Harkins. I live in District 7. I'm a Magnolia resident. I would really like to thank the commissioners, the Fremont groups, Magnolia groups and the Redistricting Justice Coalition for all the real effort that everyone has put into this process to find a solution that keeps Seattle's neighborhoods whole. I want to ask a question, and this concerns Dave Bradley's map that he proposed earlier in this meeting. He has proposed a map that seems to address every concern that every group has on this call, and every group has had in this process. Is there a way that you can put the map up on the screen and we can discuss it? Thank you.

IX. Map Discussion and Possible Amendments

- **Commissioner Nickels** presented a proposal and Mary Ullrich, went over Commissioner Nickel's amendments. A narrative amendments and link to the online map can be found below:
 - Commissioner Nickels proposed a [Discussion Map](#) that:
 - Uses I-5 as the primary boundary for Districts 1 and 2.
 - Keeps Pioneer Square and West Seattle whole in District 1.
 - Keeps Chinatown International District and Beacon Hill whole in District 2.
 - Keeps Central District whole in District 3.
 - Uses I-5 as the boundary for Districts 5 and 6.
 - Keeps Magnolia whole and together with Queen Anne in District 7.
 - Keeps Eastlake and Fremont whole in District 4.
 - Keeps Lake City and Northgate whole in District 5.
 - Keeps Ballard whole in District 6.
 - Commissioner Juarez presented amendments his proposal and Mary Ulrich went over the Commissioners' Juarez's amendments. A narrative and link to the online map can be found below to proposed a [Discussion Map](#) that:
 - Extends the south end of District 6 and District 7 boundary along 28th Ave W from W McGraw St to W Howe St. This removes the quickly turning boundary that followed W McGraw St, Condon Way W, and 30th Ave W before meeting with W Howe St.
 - Commissioner O'Sullivan proposed to review the [Discussion Map](#) submitted by member of the public, Dave Bradlee. Mary Ullrich went over the Dave Bradlee's proposed map. A narrative amendments and link to the online map can be found below:
 - Moves the area of Magnolia west of 15th Ave W and down to the Magnolia Bridge to District 6.
 - Moves the area between Aurora Ave N and Stone Way N, between NE 50th St and Lake Union, to District 6.
 - Moves all of Eastlake to District 7.
 - Moves all the blocks in First Hill bounded by I-5, Boren Ave, and James St to District 7.
 - Moves the University of Washington to District 3.
 - Moves all Green Lake and Meridian east of Aurora Ave N, south of NE 85th St, west of I-5, and north of NE 50th St, to District 4.

- Keeps Districts 1, 2, and 5 unchanged.
- The Commission delegated staff to make all amendments and maps in discussion available to the public for comment

X. Next regular meetings

- The Redistricting Commission's next meeting will be a special meeting on Monday October 31, 2022 from 12:00pm-1:30pm at the L280 Boards and Commissions Room at City Hall on Floor L2.
- The Redistricting Commission will have a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 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 Nickels motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner O'Sullivan 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