

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 10th, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on May 17th, 2022

Commissioners Present: Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez, Patience Malaba, Greg Nickels, Neelima Shah

Commissioners Absent: Rory O’Sullivan

Commission Staff and Guests: Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods, Jenn Brandon: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney

(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 and land acknowledgement

III. Agenda Review and approval

- Department of Neighborhoods staff Elsa Batres-Boni had a change to the agenda to note that Assistant City Attorney Ariel Schneier is leading the conversation around potentially asking a voting rights expert to present to the commission.
- There were no further questions or concerns from the Commissioners on today’s agenda for the 5.10.22 meeting.
- **Minutes approval**
- Approval for the 5.03.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Shah. The minutes for the 5.03.22 meeting was then passed by the Commission unanimously with three yes votes.

IV. Public Comment

- Gregg Petrie provided public comment, asking for assistance in finding where he can access mapping data for the districts and where he can submit his own maps. City Staff will send Gregg

an email so that he can have instruction on where to access the mapping data and where he can submit his own maps.

V. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

- Commissioners acknowledged that they have reviewed the latest submitted public comments. Commissioner Greg Nickels had technical difficulties which prevented him from looking at the latest public comments.

VI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- No disclosures were made

VII. Outreach Update – Last Meetings

- Staff gave the Redistricting Commissioners an update on outreach efforts. This included an update on the survey being created through Citizen Lab and that information and education listening sessions are continuing to be held.

VIII. Law updates – Voting rights expert recommendation Matt Barreto from UCLA

- Assistant City Attorney Ariel Schneier discussed the potential to contract Matt Barreto from UCLA to give the Redistricting Commission his recommendations as to how they can uphold voting rights during the Redistricting process. During the next meeting, commissioners will create a list of questions to create some structure around engaging the Matt Barretto or another expert.

IX. May 15 District 1 Public Forum Preparation – Agenda, Materials, roles

- Commissioners agreed on agenda, structure and rolls for the public forum. Staff gave an update that staff met with legal to ensure that the slide deck for the first forum is accurate to the charter and legal requirements, as well as an update that there will be ASL and other languages interpretation during the public forums as well.
- Commissioners noted that focusing more on the technical aspects of the maps and navigating how to expand and contract districts by census blocks would be more productive than getting feedback on the example maps created by the Districting GIS Consultants.
- Districting GIS Consultant Dennis Higgins will be in attendance during the forum to answer any questions folks might have and will also be able to create new maps based on feedback given during the forum for attendees to review.
- Commissioner Nickels will be presenting at the District 1 public forum to provide the public background information.

X. Draft Map retreat

- Redistricting Commissioners will fill out the Doodle poll sent by staff so that a final date for the draft map retreat can be narrowed down and selected.

XI. Next Meetings

- The District 1 Public Forum will be held this Sunday, May 15th, from 1:00PM – 3:00PM .
- The next meeting will be on May 17th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

XII. Public Comment - Continued

- Joseph Lachman from the Asian Counseling and Referral Service and also Redistricting Justice for Seattle noted his thanks to staff for helping them find time to speak with several commissioners and that they look forward to having more discussions. Joseph wanted to add on behalf of their group is that they appreciated commissioner comments regarding the section of the public forums for public comment and extending that further and that it is much appreciated. Joseph also wanted to add there is that there is the potential for multiple members from redistricting

justice signing up to provide comment, and that they may decide to combine comments into one larger comment to save time. Joseph also would like to have more discussion with the commission on finding someone with voting rights expertise, as that is something that the Redistricting Justice team has worked on in the past.

- Gregg Petrie noted that he appreciated all the efforts watching the process and that he was really impressed how much commissioners are trying to make this right, and that he would also add as a map maker possibly defining what features are important to you is going to make his life and everybody's life a lot easier so the certainly quicker you could do that the better the other comment is you talk a lot about groups and certain neighborhoods he would like to see some thought given to the groups that are forming now we have all these districts and there's and the population is changing to in response the options they have with these districts he wouldn't want to see these groups that are forming be lost if too many radical changes are made so it's important to make changes that help these groups that are forming to keep growing.

XIII. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Malaba motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Shah seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with four yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday May 17th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 5.10.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov