

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC FORUM DISTRICT 1 MINUTES

Sunday, May 15th, 2022

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on May 24th, 2022

Commissioners Present: Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez, 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, Jenn Brandon: Department of Neighborhoods, Dennis Higgins: Districting GIS Consultant, 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 with an option to meet in person at the High Point Seattle Public Library Branch Meeting Room. This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 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 further questions or concerns from the Commissioners on today’s agenda for the 5.15.22 public forum meeting and the agenda was passed unanimously with five votes.

IV. Public Comment

- **Gregg Petrie** provided public comment, asking staff and the commission where he can get access to mapping data, and where he can submit his own maps. The Districting GIS Consultant mentioned that the mapping data is publicly available through either the City of Seattle or on Dave’s Redistricting App. There is also a survey on the How to Participate page where Gregg can submit his own maps either by sending a link or by attaching a JPEG or PNG file.
- **Cindy Black** from Fix Democracy First provided public comment, noting that the preference of the Redistricting Justice for Seattle coalition wishes to not split up Beacon Hill between District 1 and 2 and instead to keep Beacon Hill together and instead expand District 1 into Georgetown

then north into Downtown. They also don't recommend dividing South Seattle by cutting District 1 east of I-5 and would prefer to see it expand north to downtown. Maps with these guidelines will be submitted by the Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition.

- **Abdo** gave a public comment discussing racial disparities in the current school districts and educational opportunities around school choice in District 2.
- **Steven Shwaab** gave a public comment asking if the commission will arrange districts based on ethnicity and cultural backgrounds of neighborhoods. Commissioners noted that while the main goal is to get within 1% difference in population for each district and that the goal of the Redistricting commission is to make sure that all voices are heard, including voices that have historically not been part of this conversation. From a legal perspective the commission is prohibited from diluting the voting power of populations based on race or ethnicity.
- **Tammy Dang: Public Comments from Vietnamese-speaking attendees:**
 - One person asked if she lives in one district and the line ends up moving, will she have no choice but to support the new district that she has been moved to. Commissioners noted that while people can still support a specific council member they couldn't vote for that person if they are living in a different district from the candidate that is running for office.
 - The second question was about school district lines and whether they would have to move school districts if there is a district line change. Commissioners noted that school districts are not in any way tied to the decisions of that body, as City Council district lines are separate, and this would be a policy matter of Seattle Public Schools.
- **Abdi Gobeni: Public Comments from Somali-speaking attendees**
 - District 2 citizens are concerned about their organizing power as a community being split due to redistricting and whether their voices matter.
- Commissioner Malaba motioned to end the public commenting period, Commissioner O'Sullivan seconded, and the motion was passed with five votes.

V. Next meetings

- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday May 17th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- The next Public Forum will be for District 2, which will take place at El Centro de la Raza at the Centilia Cultural Center on May 19th, 2022, from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

VI. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez 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 five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday May 17th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov