

## SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

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

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**Commissioners Absent:** N/A

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**Commission Staff and Guests:** Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods, Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney

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(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 12:01 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 5.24.22 meeting.
- **Minutes approval**
- Approval for the 5/15/22, 5/17/22, and 5/19/22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Shah. The minutes for the 5/15/22, 5/17/22, and 5/19/22 and meetings were then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

##### IV. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

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

##### V. Public Comment

- **Joseph Lachman** - “thank you again for making some time for public comment I did just want to plug again that um we were really grateful of course for that the commission went forward with the district 2 um hearing um I just wanted to make sure that we followed up on some of the

feedback that I think a lot of the folks in the meeting provided and that's um you know I know the last meeting there been the um discussion from one of the deputy um city attorneys talking about um you know the possibility of having a different in-person um feedback session um again like in district and I'm hoping that the district you know that the um commission will um entertain that idea since um a lot of our folks you know we're not able to be there in person for different reasons and of course the commissioners were not there um and I think there's a lot more feedback that folks are looking to give also because how early we were in the schedule and also just um because our own um work as redistricting justice for Seattle has been moving forward and we've been um working to develop um so preferences among community members so what they'd actually like to see um in in the mapping so um again I hope you would um consider that and um also wanted to express appreciation to commissioner O'Sullivan for suggesting the agenda item about um actually discussing that specifics since that was a concern that we had at the state level that a lot of times the actual discussion of uh boundaries was not going on um in front of you know the public audience there so again um thank you all for being very thoughtful and considerate with this and we look forward to talking more with you."

- Redistricting commissioners responded, noting that they have not had, nor will they have any private discussions or meetings about the district maps or district lines without there being a publicly available meeting that adheres to OPMA guidelines.

#### **VI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

- No conflicts of interest were disclosed at this time.

#### **VII. Public Forum Evaluation**

- Commissioners discussed the 5.19.2022 District 2 Public Forum, noting that the meeting was successful, with some minor technical difficulties setting up hybrid meetings. The Redistricting Commissioners thanked the public for their public comments and hope to see more participation at future district forum meetings.

#### **VIII. June 2<sup>nd</sup> District 3 Public Forum Preparation – Agenda, Materials, Roles**

- Commissioner Shah will be giving the presentation on the Redistricting process and informing attendees on the process.

#### **IX. Additional Forums**

- Attendees for the District 2 public forums asked the commissioners to hold a second round of forums for District 2, requesting also that commissioners show up in person to interact with attendees at additional forums.
- Commissioners held a discussion led by Commissioner Malaba on adding additional forums to the schedule for District 2. Commissioner Malaba noted the request, explaining that for District 2 and 3, these districts have been greatly impacted by gentrification and have been marginalized in similar conversations in the past. Commissioner Nickels noted a concern that this may be setting a precedence for more districts to ask for additional forums. Commissioners are planning to revisit this conversation later in the summer, so that the community has more time to organize itself around redistricting. Commissioners also noted that participating in the district 3 public forum would be a good opportunity for folks from District 2 to also participate and share more with the commission since those two districts are dealing with similar representation issues.

#### **X. District Lines Discussion**

- Redistricting commissioners discussed where the lines can move in District 2 and 3, and plan on asking community for feedback on why in particular CID must be held in the same districts as Beacon Hill and Rainier beach. Commissioner Nickels brought up that the commission recognizes the need to keep these communities from being split into different districts but wants to explore and get feedback on why District 2 is the district community asks to house these communities as opposed to District 3. Commissioner Nickels also asked what the commission can consider as a geographical boundary and suggested that the commission only uses I-5 to a certain point, as that highway splits communities of interest up.
- This agenda item will be added to all future agendas, so that the commission can workshop where to put district lines and process feedback from the public forums in real-time to narrow down options.

**XI. Next meetings**

- The next regular meeting will be on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- The next meeting of the commission will be at the district 3 Public Forum at Garfield Community Center at 2323 E Cherry St, Seattle, WA 98122 on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM

**XII. Public Comment – Continued**

- **Gregg Petrie** - “I had a question uh there's two factors you're trying to uh work with here one is you want the districts to be as a continuous as possible, but you also want to follow the existing boundaries as much as you can which of those are more uh more critical in in your view.” Gregg also expressed that the guidelines of contiguousness and continuity are vague, to which commissioners responded that they are leaning towards creating new maps that don't necessarily follow those guidelines, and instead are focusing on balancing populations in an equitable way.
- **Katie Stultz** - “hello everyone um uh great to be here this afternoon um to see you all again uh from last Thursday um I just one thing I wanted to just make a quick comment on was um just one I'm it's really grateful and um great to hear sort of just the conversation today based on the feedback from Thursday um one note is really just the question of um really another opportunity to hear from district two um I just wanted to put one consideration of just the you know that it's not necessarily just that you know yes d3 will provide an opportunity to hear a lot of the similar comments just because it shares a border I also want to lift up the consideration of time and time to educate and organize um the other districts district six and seven will have at least two more months of uh engagement with community to be able to turn folks out to those hearings with the last public hearing I believe at the end of July and so I just wanted to lift that up if there is any opportunity to have um that secondary opportunity to be farther away from now so to be either closer to end of June or in July I know just hearing from folks that are organizing in community education events where they can really meet folks where they are that to be able to really um get those messages out that um just to just to have that in consideration as well um the last thing I would say also is just with the last point is I lifted this up last Thursday is that this really for my understanding is the first opportunity for the public to actually give input on the lines from when they were first developed this is very new in Seattle and so again as much consideration that can be made up on and from what I've heard from community feedback um rather than really just where the original lines um are since those were not necessarily developed from a public uh input process um and that's the last but thank you again

so much for the time this morning and really appreciate all of your um all of your work and service on this commission thanks thank you.”

**XIII. Adjourn**

- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O’Sullivan motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Malaba seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 5.24.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to [Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov](mailto:Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov)