

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC FORUM DISTRICT 3 MINUTES

Thursday, June 2nd, 2022

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on June 14th, 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, 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 Garfield Community Center. This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 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 6.02.22 public forum meeting and the agenda was passed unanimously with five votes.

IV. Brief overview of Seattle redistricting

- Commissioner Neelima Shah gave a brief overview of the Seattle Redistricting process and the basics around what Redistricting is and what it means for the City of Seattle.

V. Interactive Mapping Tool

- Mary Ullrich, one of the Commission’s Districting GIS Consultants, gave the public an overview of how to use the Dave’s Redistricting App and where to find more information and step-by-step guides on how to use the app to draw and submit communities of interest.

VI. Public Comment

- **Mary Pat Delevan** - "I didn't bring a copy of the letter but we did send a letter to the commission in saying that we wanted to keep the central district whole and the boundaries of that are in that letter and I just want to reiterate how important it is to us that the central area not be split between two districts it's very important for this community which has been assaulted for decades to stay together and that's basically that's my comment thank you so much."
- **Connor Nosh** - "Hi there I was just looking at the different example maps that are up and I think if those are the ones that are most likely to be considered I think that number four would be the best in reducing the changes to the boundary lines all the other ones really break up many places in the international district the central district yes we're terrorists and I think that would be detrimental to district 3 and to the council as a whole and that's my comment."
- **Francisco Irigon** – "Okay thank you my name is frank Irigon I'm with the oca Asia pacific American advocates greater Seattle chapter and our main concern is that asian pacific American native Hawaiian votes are not diluted and that we stay strong since we are the largest minority population in Seattle and in fact in king county and so we would like it to remain that way so again we don't want to see our votes diluted into other districts that would minimize this as far as we're concerned that would be a pattern of anti-asian hate so again no dilution of asian American native Hawaiian pacific islander votes thank you."
- **Joseph Shoji Lachman** - "Thank you chair Juarez my name is joseph shoji Lachman and I'm with asian counseling referral service as well as redistricting justice for Seattle and thank you again for allowing time for folks to speak with regard to tradition and district three we just wanted to so on behalf of the coalition wanted to offer a little bit of feedback related to this area and one thing is we hope that the commission can do more outreach in language based on the feedback that we've got especially for folks in the area who speak Vietnamese Oromo and Cantonese as much as possible we'd really like certain areas to be kept tall especially because of the boundary between district three and district two making sure that the cid is kept whole in district two and not as split up with some small areas going in three and seven as well based on some of the feedback we've been getting we'd also like the commission as much as possible to look for any way to actually come up with a mapping proposal that would keep that would actually put yesterday's and majority poc blocks together in district two since district is like expanding north and just hoping that this can be prioritized over incumbents for example not quarters questioning motives or anything but I'm just hoping that the commission could explore this possibility and just broadly make sure that communities of color are staying together especially considering the large populations that are in the cid and central district and some other areas that are possibly in district two or three thank you."
- **Nirae Petty** - "Yeah hi everyone my name is Nirae I work in district 3 at the urban league of metropolitan Seattle I'm the advocacy program manager we're one of multiple organizations part of the redistricting justice for Seattle coalition dedicated to keeping the commission accountable to equitable community engaged and transparent redistricting in Seattle in my testimony today I want to spotlight our values and redistricting process which are keeping communities of color and other underserved communities together prioritizing people over politicians and gerrymandering and promoting culturally competent outreach for informed input from our communities I also wanted to highlight that yes sir terrace community is currently split between two different city council districts two and three rjs believes that the Yesler Terrace

area should be kept together preferably in district 2 as district 2 is a majority bipoc district that needs to expand north however we also believe that there needs to be more accessible outreach to this neighborhood before any final decisions and that includes translation services provided in Vietnamese Oromo Amharic Somali Cantonese and more yes or terrace is a diverse multilingual neighborhood that deserves to have extra attention in the redistributing process because of this that's all I have for now thank you for your work and the opportunity to speak today."

- **Nirae Petty (second public comment)** - "Thanks for letting me go again I just wanted to reiterate that you know although we really appreciate all the work that you guys are doing and we know it's not easy I really do believe that one workshop in two minutes is not enough time to give informed feedback about this process it's not the easiest to understand quite frankly it isn't taught to our communities of color but we are the most impacted so I think that until we're confident to give informed feedback and really understand what this is going to do for the next 10 years I think we need additional forums for each district especially district 2 and 3."
- **Gregg Petrie** - "Thanks uh quick question was the work statement given to the county actually significantly different from the rfp I just wondered if the final work statement varied from the scale of work outlined in the rfp in the final paperwork." Gregg asked a second question about whether or not the commission can use data other than census data, to which Commissioner O'Sullivan responded, noting that the commission must use the most recent population data provided by the census, also noting that the commission also is incorporating the new population numbers from incarcerated individuals as outlined by SB 5583.
- **Joanna Cullen** - "Hi so earlier I submitted some maps I think you have them and the purpose of the maps were to show that district that Yesler terrace can be included in district 2 or in district 3 while keeping the central area whole and keeping the cid whole they're all very important neighborhoods with a lot of cultural and historical value and current active current cultural activities within each district and I was working with candc which is central area district neighborhood council on the central area central area and we realized our neighbors were also perhaps in danger of being chopped up which we were terribly chopped up during the Washington state redistricting and have become alert to not being chopped up again and so I submitted maps and we will probably continue to work on maps that demonstrate that these that is very possible to keep these neighborhoods whole with each one of them staying whole within a district and that that's not a problem which we key continue to hear it is so that's all I have to say for now thank you."
- **Joanna Cullen (second public comment)** - "I have a comment question on your presentation so one day I was thinking well you know really if you if you have one black person living in your district and you get one more black person living in your district that's a hundred percent increase but if you have a thousand in order to get a hundred percent increase you have to get another thousand so I can see where that's somewhat useful but you know like I was thinking Madison park is still probably even though it showed this big increase in people of color I'm thinking I bet that area is still 86 or so white so anyway that's all my that's my comment I'd like to understand why that particular slide is important."
- **Theresa Huey** - "Thank you I too am speaking up in favor of keeping districts two and three the central district and district two intact I think it's important for the bipoc and black communities

not to split those them up because their voices are already diluted so I just wanted to iterate reiterate with the person from the urban league and the previous person just there.”

- **Theresa Huey (second public comment)** - “I’m hoping that the population of our district can stay the same stay as it is the mayor has vowed to put all of Seattle’s growth in district 2 in district 3 and other areas that are up zoned so it’s going to be big anyway if that if he continues his plan, so I don’t see why continuing to chop it up and chop it up and add people add people and put all of Seattle’s growth in that area let’s just go with what it is and how it is and see what happens because that’s the current plan and I want to I you know I just don’t want a whole lot of back and forth going on with this so yeah I know that there’s going to be more people in Seattle district 3 than many of us would like but I think we could work it out once it everything gets settled and all the dust settles thank you so much.”
- **Theresa Huey (third public comment)** - “Thank you for this opportunity because it’s a learning process for me but do you have any data that could be distributed about just how many minorities or people of color or in these different districts just so that we have an idea of exactly what we’re dealing with that we could be dealing with I think that information will be helpful thank you.”
- **Erik Nielsen** -” Good evening, everyone my name is Erik Nielsen I’m a district 3 resident and representing the center for new liberalism Seattle chapter I’d like to talk specifically about some of the formal borders that I think make sense for the future of district 3. first and foremost would be to the western border i-5 is an unfortunate scar on our city’s map but it also that separation between communities is also a very reasonable place to draw lines that don’t bisect already existing groups of people to the south it gets more complicated because of the integration of the central district and we know that the keeping the communities there together is really important so I would encourage map drawing to prioritize keeping little Saigon and the international district as a whole as part of district 7. I would encourage things like Yesler terrace and most of the central district to remain or to be in district three and that district two’s expansion happened primarily along the coastline of lake Washington where the ridge creates a natural barrier between different parts of the central district community it’s not an ideal situation but it definitely will allow for the most greatest representation of the people who live here without bisecting too many neighborhoods to the north I also would encourage the opportunity to move the district across the ship canal where it’s necessary but if done so it must maintain the neighborhood status whether that be the university of washington area whether that be Laurelhurst area or Wallingford area we need to make sure that these communities maintain their shape on the map and that no one gets left out thank you.”
- **Brian Hensley** - “hello yes my name is Brian Hensley I’m from the Jackson place community council so that is bounded by rainier to the west Jackson uh street to the north dukens park to the east and i-90 to the south I am asking that we specifically but the greater central area district council stays together we have worked hard to build up our community council over the past five years to foster a lot more civic engagement we are also taking a lot of time to become active participants in the candc meeting and that if we were to be separated from them that we feel that we would lose our power to advocate additionally a lot of issues that affect them affect us a personally feel that it would be beneficial to stay within district three however I think the greater priority is that we stay within the candc whatever district they end up in as well as many neighborhoods within central area district council staying together thank you.”

- **Ruby Holland** - "My name is ruby holland and I'm in district 3. I would like for district 3 to remain intact I've been in this neighborhood for years and years and it's been chopped up quite a bit it doesn't look at all like it did when I left Seattle but I'm hoping that it stays the way it is now we have a lot of UW professors and grad students and students that like to study the central area for if the gentrification effects that's had on it and to chop it up would just do a lot of harm to the studies that they're doing and the studies that we're already doing so please keep the cd together thank you so much."
- **Commissioner Greg Nickels Response** - "thank you Mr. chair uh the last speaker uh ruby holland and Theresa Huey a couple speakers ago both talked about district 3 being kept intact and I just want to clarify that's not really an option the commission has both district 1 and district 2 have to add over 5 000 nearly 6 000 people the only way to do that is for district 1 to move east and district 1 and 2 then to move north and that means there will be some changes to district 3's boundary so what I want to clarify uh ruby and Theresa if you're still with us is that what you're suggesting and asking the commission to consider is the central district and in the movement between the two districts to keep the central district whole and together in one district am I correct?"
 - Theresa responded that she hopes to do what's possible to keep the population of BIPOC residents increasing in the district and not decreasing.
 - Ruby Holland noted that she hopes that the district's population can stay the same because of the Mayor's plan to try and add more population into District 2 and 3.
- **Alex Cooley** -"Thank you commissioners as our wonderful commissioner former mayor said previously now that everything's been said but not by everyone I would like to echo the sentiments of pretty much everyone who has spoken uh to keep Yesler Terrace together to keep the cid together and to keep the central area together uh I am a d3 resident I am also on the Jackson place community council board and would love to personally stay in I think the maps that the candc created represent a way for us to properly balance all districts while keeping all three of these incredibly culturally important areas together there's two different versions one that puts guests or terrace into d2 and one that puts it into d3 so we encourage you to view our maps and consider them and we hope that that can be the borders that you eventually land on thank you."
- **Commissioner Neelima Shah** asked to clarify which organization that he is representing and who has submitted maps.
- **Alex Cooley** responded that he is with the Jackson Place Community Council and the Central Area Neighborhood District Council, and that Joanna Cullen has submitted maps on behalf of CANDC and that CANDC has submitted a memo to the commission a while ago.
- **Lisa Reising** -"I'm with the Jackson place community council through that position as president I sit as a participant on the central area neighborhood district council there's been representatives from both of those organizations speaking this evening the first person Joanna from the candc no apologies second person from candc Joanna she spoke previously she submitted maps that were drafted by a team uh at the ca and dc with help of jccc so those should have been submitted today as well as a letter was drafted by the candc I want to say three four months ago right before you've released your first maps expressing our deep desire to keep the central area together inside of district 3 and a multitude of reasons as to why thank you we did receive that letter and I believe it did have very specific boundaries to define the

central district so that was useful so thank you for that and so you're in the comment the maps came from Joanna Cullen so we can look for that yes ma'am okay and both of those maps uh are reflective of that letter and maintain those borders while also taking into considerations our neighbors the cid and yesler terrace perfect thanks so much."

- **Rebecca F** - "The ultimate boundaries are for the for district 3 I would just hope that the budget can be allocated proportional to the need even though the population is approximate you know will be generally the same and that's the goal I think that the need of the infrastructure needs of district 3 are higher than many of the other districts and I would hope that that can be reflected somehow in the budgetary priorities thank you."
- **Katherine Keller** - "Hi I'm Katherine Keller I live in the central area at the north end so I want to be clear that the central area all the way to the lake and we took like 15 years to develop the central area design guidelines in our design review board and those communities where we have a serious interest in bringing back the black population and which used to go up into capitol hill was actually part of the black community so I don't want to lose that history but I wanted to echo the comment that was made earlier that some special attention really is needed for Yesler Terrace community because it's a new community virtually in the last 10 years the old yester terrace area was taken over and it has you know new buildings are being built and I really think that community needs to be had a special outreach for their own identity and where people want to be located as far as our district lines thank you."
- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juarez noted that there are many opportunities to provide public comment, beyond just the District Public Forums. There are two opportunities to provide public comment at every weekly Tuesday Redistricting Commission meeting, and Commission Chair Juarez also said that commissioners are open to making themselves available for community events as well to discuss redistricting.
- Redistricting Commissioners asked Department of Neighborhoods staff to include more data and an explanation on how BIPOC communities in Seattle have changed in the most recent census results in future public forum presentations.

VII. Next meetings

- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday June 7th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- The next Public Forum will be District 4 at the Wallingford Community Senior Center within The Good Shepherd Center at 4649 Sunnyside Ave N # 140, Seattle, WA 98103 on June 9th, 2022, from 5:30PM-7:30PM.

VIII. 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 five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday June 7th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov