

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC FORUM DISTRICT 4 MINUTES

Thursday, June 9th, 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 Wallingford Community Senior Center within The Good Shepherd 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 6.09.22 public forum meeting and the agenda was passed unanimously with five votes.

IV. Brief overview of Seattle redistricting

- Commissioner Patience Malaba 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

- Dennis Higgins, 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

- Gregg Petrie** - "I'm from district 4 as I said, and I'd like to make an argument that we should keep the district boundaries much like they are I'm going to make my comments in the context of four assumptions that given the time limits one that you should minimize the change of all boundaries a second assumption is that the precincts make a better a building block to make these changes with not the census blocks and the last assumption is that other county data maybe more recent data could also be used in this process so there's not much need to change for very few we would like to see the change to make it more compact this means maybe shrinking a little dog leg down along the lake secondly to make this work we would suggest you move district five and into grow it into six and then grow six into the west side of seven grow one east a little bit toward the height i-5 and then north and then do two into three and three would just absorb these changes mostly with just the natural shrinking they have also I'd really like to see the maps that have been made if possible have those displayed on the interactive system that you already have just out of curiosity and to help other people understand the process thanks."
- Ron Davis** - "I'm Ron Davis I'm a d4 citizen and board member of the Roosevelt neighborhood association which is currently contained in d4 and I'm also representing that group today I know the maps are supposed to just be conversation starters so let's converse they show how easy it is to screw up all our rules and guidelines about gerrymandering communities of interest and geography the racial equity toolkit for the city also requires us as was implied to pay attention to uh excluded minorities who might be harmed something that also seemed kind of set aside here map 2 represents the worst of this it rips Roosevelt in half and hacks the U district of pieces uh Roosevelt is one of the fastest diversifying neighborhoods in the city although all of d4 isn't and the u district is among the most working class and renter centric between them there are tens of thousands of renters who would lose their voice three of the maps very foolishly reached across the Montlake cut into far flame flower flung places many of us in d4 have never heard of including uh Edgewater and Broadmoor um I'm not sure why the world Broadmoor is paired with half the u district when the rest of the renters were sent packing across i-5 but I think Karl rove might kind of love this stuff so please here's what we actually need um as was said before please keep the district relatively intact like map four keep Roosevelt in the u-district hole preserving some renter voice that means west to i-5 south to portage bay north to 75th and east to lake washington and please get rid of the bizarro cross-cut additions better yet we could add that population back by borrowing from the smart stuff in map one bring the east green lake neighborhood across the freeway since many consider it to be part of one Roosevelt green lake neighborhood anyway and it's certainly a shared walk shed consider adding meridian or as most of us call it 'Tangletown' which is closely tied to green lake as well there's pretty easy trade-offs to accommodate this, we can seed some of our northern border to d5 or east lake to d3 or maybe even Wallingford to d6 better yet d6 could shift south since thousands of them commute down 15th and I know nobody here drives to Broadmoor it's very different uh level of connectivity just please keep our communities together especially our renters and working-class citizens thank you."
- Commission Chair Eliseo Juárez's follow-up question for Ron Davis** - "A follow-up question for Ron you brought up a walk shed and in your testimony you gave some really helpful specific guidance on the preferences you have for your district are there other walk sheds that you are particularly concerned about given what you've mentioned for where those boundaries should

be moved you talked um specifically about the green lake walk shed is there another one there that is vital for your community to remain intact.”

- **Ron Davis** - “I mean a couple of the mooted maps ripped apart existing walk sheds so do you mean because so the answer is I could name a bunch or do you mean like as per compared to current I'm not I'm not referencing the example maps those are kind of okay yeah so I would say look the existing d4 does it pretty like pretty good job I think it would be better if we had uh green lake as I said and then that meridian or tangled town area has a fair amount of walk connectivity to both Wallingford and that east green lake area that I'm saying is part of Roosevelt so uh map one gets uh gets pretty close to getting that right um it leaves out a couple parts of green lake that are a little weird but um as an example of I think preserving some more coherent walk sheds in comparison to say doing things where it's adding population that are not walker connected at all like some of that across the cut stuff I was referencing we do have currently in before I will say we have Eastlake um which is a little odd and across the cut but there are a lot of people that do particularly students that walk between east lake and view districts so it's not quite as crazy as some of the others great I appreciate the additional insight thank you sure thanks for asking.”
- **Richard Ellison** - “I live in district 4. About the redistricting process, It's very difficult to at some level I see I the power of the decision going to five people, but I guess my concept as a retired community college adjunct, my suggestion basically is to know what is the academic approach, what do the experts in redistricting say, what do all the sort of democracy study organizations say in regard to how to best create a redistricting, so this is not something we're trying to reinvent. I'm sure that it has been done so many times and there must be a lot of experts who can give advice as to the best ways to redistrict. Why are we trying to utilize that which should be you know the experts in this field uh maybe that's already been done but I've not heard anything about how there's this sort of democratic organization that proposes this is the best way to redistrict we're trying to work with these organizations to redistrict as opposed to just ourselves trying to do it all figuring it out as we're going along so that is my comment is you know what is the academic approach? What are the experts in in this process suggests as a means of doing redistricting.”
- **Commission Chair Juárez's Response to Richard Ellison** - “Richard I think your point is well taken I think there are a lot of experts that are currently engaged in this process what you're hearing during the public forums is largely our wish and desire to hear from unaffiliated members of the public and organizations and people that are coming representing those organizations there are a few that have shown up already making themselves very clear with their expert opinion and it is much appreciated uh during the 2010 process when the lines were initially drawn and the initiative process was put together many election experts from across the country and regionally weighed in on that it was eventually moved to the voters who approved that and we are definitely doing our best to receive all the information we can so definitely appreciate the nudge towards looking at what the experts are saying as well.”

VII. Next meetings

- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday June 14th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- The next Public Forum will be District 5 at the Lake City Branch - Seattle Public Library Meeting Room at 12501 28th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125 on June 16th, 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 Nickels seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday June 14th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov