

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC FORUM DISTRICT 5 MINUTES

Thursday, June 16th, 2022

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on June 28th, 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

(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 Lake City Seattle Public Library Branch. 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 6.16.22 public forum meeting and motioned for approval by Commissioner Malaba and seconded by Commissioner Nickels. The agenda and outreach materials were 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

- **Andrew Hong** - "Thank you mine's pretty quick today but my name is Andrew Hong, I am the statewide coordinator of the redistricting justice for washington coalition um and the redistricting justice I'm a co-lead organizer on the redistricting justice for Seattle coalition we're a coalition of community organizations in the city of Seattle fighting for fair and equitable district lines in this process particularly for disenfranchised communities and communities of color in district five our priorities remain the same as kind of our city-wide district priorities we really hope to see that the commission does not split communities of color particularly those in the north gate area especially around aurora avenue apart into different districts and to really keep those communities of color together in a single district to preserve that the bipoc voting power and the north end of the city uh thank you."
- **Sarah Jane Siegfried** - "I'm Sarah Jane Siegfried I've lived in lake city for about 25 years and seen it go from being maybe a quarter people of color to over half people of color in lake city right now I'm particularly concerned that you retain as closely as possible the present boundaries of district five I know that's a may do and not a must do but to us it's a must do because district five is closely aligned with the 85th street annex boundary going back to the 1940s 50s and that's the area that doesn't have sidewalks except on some very major rare streets so every time a candidate comes to talk to us we say and what are you going to do about sidewalks and they say oh um and the move Seattle uh you know nine-year plan has uh identifies 11 200 block fronts lacking sidewalks in Seattle 60 of them are in north Seattle and it only funded 250 of them so the current plan is we have four we have a 400 year plan for equity in sidewalks and this has to do with ada accessibility it has to do with strollers it has to do with getting off the bus at five o'clock and having to walk down the middle of the street it's dangerous so we need to represent this as much as possible in north Seattle our second concern is the lake city community center which never was adopted as part of the actual parks district and now it's up for reconstruction but the last mayor put it on uh whole or slow and so we're hoping to build housing over our community center and to get the attention it deserves to get rebuilt so um for in order for us to represent those we need to retain you know the area north of 85th and then as much south of 85th is needed to balance the district thank you."
- **Question from Commissioner Nickels** - "Sarah Jane my question is uh district five like district one and two has to pick up a substantial population it's grown more slowly than the rest of the city so it needs to pick up about 6,000 voters from other districts it do you sense that there's a feeling in the community what where that should come to best make the community whole?"
- **Sarah Jane Siegfried** - "What I'm suggesting is that it simply moves south in a generally in a horizontal line."
- **Gregg Petrie** - "My first question when you put off the final map uh are you going to put on a digital version so we could uh look at it and make some digital calculations um secondly it looks like if you look at the way the system's got to grow you really can't pay attention to where the water ways are except for say the lab and Lake Washington you're going to be forced to cross the boundary lake boundaries as you go from north to south and as you expand uh district one so if you have any comments of characterizing what these various uh communities are that you're trying to you're trying to keep on what there are and where the boundaries are if you had other maps available to me and other people you might be able to make some differences about what the general uh consensus is on what sort of communities are sort of a critical also you are

updating the system boundaries here would also be worthwhile you can update the precinct every ten years it would be useful to a lot of people to upgrade those as well.”

- **Commissioners responded** to this comment, noting that digital copies of the future maps will indeed be available online on the Seattle Redistricting website, and that staff will make hard copies available.
- **Commissioner O’Sullivan** also noted that King County elections would be the body that one would need to contact in order to suggest changing precinct boundaries
- **Lee Bruch** - “I also like one of the other people um believe that then closer we can get keep it to uh district five’s existing boundaries the better um if we need to increase it uh the one place would recommend is where on the western end there's a big dip there the big um peninsula that that um where district six goes up north and it would be nice in fact if that whole area which is essentially the greenwood area uh 85th and greenwood if that were all consistently part of district five it's very similar to the rest of district five.”

VII. Next meetings

- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday June 28th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- The next Public Forum will be District 6 at the Ballard Branch - Seattle Public Library Meeting Room at 5614 22nd Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107 on July 14th, 2022, from 5:30PM-7:30PM.

VIII. 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 June 28th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov