

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC FORUM DISTRICT 6 MINUTES

Thursday, July 14th, 2022

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on July 19th, 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 Ballard 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 7.14.22 public forum meeting and motioned for approval by Commissioner Malaba and seconded by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The agenda and outreach materials were passed unanimously with five votes.

IV. Brief overview of Seattle redistricting

- Commissioner Greg Nickels 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

- **Jeremy Swirsley** - "I am a resident of district six I live in the greenwood neighborhood I wanted to comment the first thing I mean my current neighborhood right now is probably fairly well represented on any of the maps but there were a few things I wanted to call out that I didn't really see on the maps uh first one the current maps and I think all the proposed maps really break up aurora and don't really give aurora avenue north a single unified voice sort of the way that these are arranged with the with the map with the district split between east and west mostly divided by the canal and i-5 it gives it kind of it kind of splits up the people in the middle of the city and if you look at two votes and how people vote we know that the people on the coasts which are a lot of the wealthier precincts um they are very reliable voters and they are going to sort of over represent their interests in the district so one thing I mean one if we can have a you know districts that more unify places like aurora though that would be a positive improvement another one and I saw the second consultant map sort of was going in this area where it sort of shifted district three inland and sort of covered a lot more of our these denser high growth areas that would also be a good way to kind of change who exactly is represented I don't know if it's possible to draw a second majority minority district, but that map came the closest of any of the ones that I saw that is all well that is my comment."
- **Zachary Tursuch** - "I'm a resident district 6 and I live in Ballard I just had two questions um before I have any comments they were if we make our own maps and submit them should we provide any commentary or method or methodology on how we came to our boundaries for the districts. The other question I have is in terms of prioritizing when making maps or providing the comment on the maps is geography or the neighborhood boundaries more important for determining border placement if populations are all considered the same."
- **Commissioner Juárez:** "Sure so I'll take the first part of that question um if you want to hit pause on that timer for us and then I'll let one of my colleagues take the second piece so um we welcome any kind of narrative or explanation of how you've come up with the map that you would like to help us understand why and how you drew it so the more uh detailed or the more clear clarity you can give us with the actual map that we'll be looking at the better and we welcome it uh as for the geography question uh do I have any colleagues that would like to jump in?"
- **Commissioner O'Sullivan** - "Yeah I can take that one I can only speak for myself I don't speak for the entire commission but my primary goal is ensuring that we keep communities of interest together we are directed by statutes to also consider things like geographical features and those geographic features often align with certain communities but I think it's important for us to keep communities of interest together and so neighborhoods may be slightly more important than geographical boundaries."
- **Gregg Petrie** - "Okay the main goal here is to keep the social capital stable in this whole process go to the next one please we're sort of adopting a guiding principles first do no harm go on the next one we've identified one map and that have been selected that seems to fit this criteria fairly well particularly for the north end the district of four and five are fairly stable their networks seem to be much damaged it looks like in this one six has to be sucked into sort of the black hole of seven. I want to present a couple maps to sort of demonstrate that there's a common interest in moving across uh from six into seven here's one example is that the education system spans the western edge there are these two systems this shows from census

say there's a lot of since the stadium my two minutes I decided to pick some next one quickly this shows the scatter diagram of the sort of commercial locations this shows the uh housing single-family housing you can see there's the natural boundary there uh go to the next one this shows okay. For the next slide again, you have the sort of commercial in green and the single families in red go on the next one this shows the single family again in reference to the uh multi-units condos apartments and so forth again I'd like to point out on the west side there seems to be a sort of common pattern that suggests you merge those two last slides if you have some interest, I have a bunch more maps that people are interested I could share them with you."

- **Interpretation Room Question:** "This is a community question my question is for commissioner Nickels the question I have is when Mr. Nickels was explaining about the gross population some of the area or the district are shrinking some of them are growing fast so why is this happening in the same city why some districts grow in some district shrinks can you explain to me?"
- **Commissioner Nickels' Response:** "There are no doubt many reasons for that and I know people around the city all believe their part of the city is growing faster than any other we received that kind of feedback in a number of our early sessions but in fact the center city in particular grew much faster than the rest of the city the city's got a number of different policies with regard to increasing density um there are a number of what are called urban centers that are zoned for much more density and that occurred over the last 10 years and again in particular in district 7. district 5 district one and district two grew much more slowly uh than district seven and more slowly slightly more slowly than the rest of the city I think that in part is that they're a little more remote from the center of the city and therefore less densely populated."

VII. Next meetings

- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday July 19th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- The next Public Forum will be District 7 at the Bertha Knight Landes (BKL) Room at City Hall on the 1st floor at 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104 on July 21st, 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 Malaba seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with five yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday July 19th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov