

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on November 30th 2021

Commissioners Present: Eliseo EJ Juárez, Former Mayor Greg Nickels, Neelima Shah, Rory O’Sullivan, Patience Malaba

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Commission Staff: Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods

Guests: Ariel Schneier: City Attorney’s Office, Gary Smith: City Attorney’s Office, Jennifer Pettyjohn: OPCD, Jenn Brandon: Department of Neighborhoods, Harvey Arnone: City of Seattle IT – GIS Manager

(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 11:50am once the Redistricting Commissioners were all present.

II. Welcome & Housekeeping

- Land Acknowledgment – Acknowledged that we are on indigenous land
- Reading of the agenda, welcome

III. Agenda Review

- No changes or concerns were raised or proposed on the agenda for this meeting, therefore the Seattle Redistricting Commission went on with the meeting.

IV. Public Comment

- No one from community was present for public comment or registered via our website beforehand.
- Staff Explained and made note on how there will be always a time for public comment during commission meetings

V. Decision-Making Points:

- **Approve minutes**

- o Meeting minutes for the 10.27.21 meeting was motioned for approval by the Seattle Redistricting Commissioner Nickels. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Juárez and passed with five yes votes.
- o Meeting minutes for the 11.02.21 meeting was motioned for approval by the Seattle Redistricting Commissioner Malaba. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nickels and passed with five yes votes.
- **Bylaws**
 - o Changes requested by Seattle Redistricting Commissioners:
 - Update Option A, Open Recruitment section, as the commission did not have a chair at the time of the selection of the fifth commissioner applicants.
 - Add a piece on the commission chair position being a rotating position to line 4.3 “The Commission chair will serve on for three months on a rotating basis”.
 - Update language on the timeline and what happens if certain deadlines are not met.
 - In section 2.1, add more detail on who at the State of Washington we are submitting the new maps to and who will be submitting those maps to the State of Washington.
 - Add language in the bylaws about translating the final district maps into multiple languages to be in line with King County requirements. King County mandates that for any population over 10,000 people or 5% of the population, the election materials must be translated into that language. In Seattle, those languages would be: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.
 - Add language in section 3.3 that would enable the Redistricting Commission to add City Staff to the interview panel for the District Master, if needed.
 - A question was raised about what constitutes a majority vote in section 6.2, and City Attorney’s office staff Gary Smith verified that a majority will be three yes votes in order for something to pass.
 - Note for a future meeting: The Seattle Redistricting Commission will be approving their budget at a future meeting, as the budget is separate from the Bylaws.
 - o Motion to approve bylaws with grammatical changes and friendly amendments was motioned for approval by Commissioner Nickels. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Malaba and passed with five yes votes. Staff will update language for the final approval of the bylaws for next week’s meeting.
- **RFP: interview questions, score sheets review**
 - o **Score sheets review:** Discussion on the RFP scoring sheets and whether Commissioners can use their own determinations during the interviews to evaluate applicants for the District Master role versus using a weighted, more technical approach to score applicants. Commissioner Malaba recommended we go with the weighted approach and to honor staff recommendations. Commissioner Nickels recommended that we take it into consideration while also allowing for commissioners to use their own individual judgement. City staff guests Jennifer Pettyjohn and Harvey Arnone noted that the score sheet criteria are mainly binary as it relates to minimum qualifications that are yes/no answers, like knowledge of GIS for example. Commissioners determined that it may be

best to have both a technical scoring section with a section for notes and scores from staff on the technical aspects would be helpful to inform the commission in making the final decision on the District Master applicants. Staff will bring an updated score sheet based on what was discussed during this meeting to the commission at the next meeting.

- o **Interview questions:** 10-minute presentation, 10 minutes for commissioner questions, 5 minutes for questions from applicants, 5 minutes for answers from commissioners. Went over questions that will be asked of the applicants. Interviews are planned to take place at a regularly scheduled meeting, on Tuesday December 7th. The commission noted that if there is a higher-than-expected number of applicants that the interviews may need to take place over the course of more than one meeting.

VI. Next meeting

- **Will be on 11/16/21 from 11:45am – 1:15pm**
 - o Will go over recommended changes to the scoring sheets for District Master applicants.
 - o Jennifer Pettyjohn will present the Redistricting Data Dashboard to give Commissioners an overview of the technical side of Redistricting to inform their selection of the District Master applicants.

VII. Adjourn

- The Seattle Redistricting Chair O’Sullivan entertained a motion for adjournment, which was motioned by Commissioner Shah and seconded by Commissioner Malaba. The Redistricting Commission passed adjournment with five yes votes thus ending the meeting.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday November 16th, from 11:45am-1:15pm.
 - o Agenda for this meeting will be sent out by the end of this week, or early on Monday, November 15th at the latest to all Redistricting Commissioners.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for minutes before the next meeting
- Commission staff will make friendly amendment changes to the bylaws as approved and discussed during today’s meeting
- Commission staff will follow up on scoring matrix and weighting scores based on feedback from today’s meeting
- Commission staff will send out calendar invites for upcoming meetings
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov