

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8th, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on March 22nd, 2022

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

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Commission Staff and Guests: Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Logan Drummond: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney, 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. This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 12:07 PM once the Redistricting Commissioners had quorum.

II. Welcome & Housekeeping

- Reading of the agenda, welcome

III. Agenda Review and approval

- There were no further questions or concerns from the Commissioners and the agenda was then motioned for approval by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The agenda was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 3.01.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Juarez. The minutes for the 3.01.22 meeting were then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

V. Public Comment

- Steve Horvath Belltown Resident (Downtown Seattle) attended the meeting noted that the current map drafts further divides representation and separates the downtown area into different districts and recommended that a future map draft create a council district that

includes all of downtown Seattle as a single council district, as the page 258 of the City's comprehensive plan notes that downtown Seattle is a single urban center.

VI. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

- Commissioners acknowledged that they have reviewed the latest submitted public comments.

VII. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- Redistricting Commissioners did not have any potential conflict of interest to disclose at this time.

VIII. Outreach Update

- Staff Elsa Batres-Boni gave the Redistricting Commission an overview of updates around outreach efforts, including recent trainings and events like informational sessions, such as the one hosted by the Wallingford Community Council. Staff is putting together a survey for community to fill out following Redistricting 101 presentations and feedback from attendees on what their communities of interest are.
- Staff, and Commission Chair Neelima Shah and Commissioner Rory O'Sullivan will meet offline to discuss next steps and figure out a finalized outreach plan in regard to whether the Commission will aim to have listening sessions in each district prior to narrowing the draft maps down to one option for the next phase of public feedback.

IX. Public Engagement Tool

- [CitizenLab Online Community Engagement Platform - Product Explainer](#)

X. GIS Update

- Dennis Higgins gave the Redistricting Commission an update on some updates to the consultant-generated maps that have been requested by staff and community, such as including things like street names on the maps. It is anticipated that the updated maps will be sent out to staff to upload to the Redistricting website.

XI. Redistricting law update on State legislation SB 5583 – Last known residence for incarcerated persons

- Assistant City Attorney Ariel Schneier gave the Redistricting commission on an update for SB 5583, the new bill will count incarcerated residents at their last reported address. City of Seattle legal staff and DON will work to get these new numbers included to account for these new population changes for King County GIS to generate updated maps based on those changes.

XII. Next meetings

- The next meeting will be on March 8th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

XIII. Public Comment - Continued

- Joanna Cullen Central Area resident spoke on Redistricting events and noted that there were only two events for March and supported Commissioner O'Sullivan's preference to have a district-wide meeting where all the folks from a specific district can come together and compromise in order to reach consensus on what a district's community may prefer in terms of the district lines.
- Jude Ahmed, Urban League staff encouraged the commission to make the decision on how they will incorporate the updated data from the SB 5583 bill to update the current draft maps. The original district council lines were created with no opportunity for public comment, and there are concerns about the four map drafts staying close to the district lines and what that means for communities who have been historically redlined or pushed into different parts of the city and what that means in terms of equity for the map-drawing process.

XIV. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Malaba 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 March 22nd, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 3.08.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov