

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 5th, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on April 19th, 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 12:03 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 for the 4.05.22 meeting was then motioned for approval by Commissioner Malaba and seconded by Commissioner Nickels. The agenda was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 3.29.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner O'Sullivan after an amendment proposed by Commissioner Malaba was accepted by the Commission. The minutes for the 3.29.22 meeting were then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

V. Public Comment

- At this time in the agenda, no one who signed up provided public comment was present to provide public comment.

VI. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

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

VII. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- No disclosures were made

VIII. Next Chair discussion

- After a discussion regarding term length, and whether the terms should be shortened from 3 months to two and a half months, the Redistricting Commission decided to continue with three-month terms, and to end with a shortened term for the last Commission Chair.
- Ariel Schneier, Assistant City Attorney, will bring more information to the commissioners about the end of the term for the whole commission in upcoming meetings.
- The Redistricting Commission voted to appoint Commissioner Eliseo EJ Juárez as the next Commission Chair. His term will begin on the April 19th, 2022 meeting and will last until July 2022.

IX. GIS Update

- Dennis Higgins, from the GIS consulting team gave a brief report, including an update that the narrative requested by the Redistricting Commission is underway and the goal is to have it ready by the April 19th meeting. Dennis reported that mentoring sessions were productive and have been conducted with four of the five Redistricting Commissioners. In regard to the public forum schedule, Dennis reported that it is very likely that among the King County GIS team members they will have availability for any of the dates and times suggested so far.

X. Public Comment discussion

- Elsa Batres-Boni led a discussion on the formatting of the public comments and gave the Redistricting Commission a heads up on this coming up at the next future meeting which will involve using tools like Citizen Lab to analyze and showcase public comments that have been submitted so far. Elsa reported that she is meeting with staff of other redistricting processes (KC Redistricting and State of WA Redistricting) to see how they analyzed and reported on the data from their public comments. Elsa gave an example of how others sorted excel files with public comment data by district and added columns to show how they were impacted by the districts mentioned.
- Commission Chair Neelima Shah mentioned that it may be prudent to sort comments by both District and by bundling themes that have come up (i.e. comments related to Lake City and keeping Lake City together and not separating it by certain streets and highways).

XI. Outreach Update

- Elsa Batres-Boni led a discussion on current outreach efforts, including a summary of scheduled listening and education sessions that include a bilingual session with Villa Comunitaria.
- Ariel Schneier, Assistant City Attorney, noted that according to the Open Public Meetings Act and attendance for the meetings, that if more than 2 commissioners attend a meeting, it would need to become a public meeting. Other options would be to either record the meeting or to take notes to share with other Commissioners after the meeting takes place.
- Commissioners noted that it would be helpful to mention to attendees that they are there solely to listen to the meeting and concerns raised by attendees, and that it would be helpful to also provide attendees with a list of reasons why Redistricting is important and how it can impact their lives.

- Staff is also working with Community Liaisons to present material in-language and serve as resources to ensure that our Redistricting process is accessible.
- Commissioner O’Sullivan noted that the Commission has received multiple public comments noting that one meeting for the final map would not be enough to get enough feedback and suggested that as we approach coming to one map that it would be beneficial to have more than one final map forum: One day forum, one night/evening forum, and one weekend forum to ensure folks with differing availability can attend.
- Commissioner Juarez, proposed to be open to the suggestion for multiple public forums after the first round, but to wait making that decision until the commission has come up first commission’s proposals.

XII. Public Comment - Continued

- Joseph Lachman, Policy Manager from Asian Counseling and Referral Services and member of the Redistricting Justice for Seattle provided public comment, expressed appreciation for Elsa Batres-Boni meeting with their organization previously to hear concerns. Joseph made a request to the commissioners to meet separately so that they can discuss priorities and core values of the Redistricting Justice for Washington to build a relationship with the commission moving forward.

XIII. Next meetings – No meeting on the 12th

- Due to Spring Break and availability, the Redistricting Commission voted to cancel the April 12th, 2022 meeting for the Redistricting Commission.
- The next meeting will be on April 19th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM and will be chaired by Commissioner Eliseo EJ Juárez.

XIV. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Neelima Shah asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O’Sullivan 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 April 19th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 4.05.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov