

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 17th, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on May 24th, 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, Waing Waing: Department of Neighborhoods, Jenn Brandon: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney

(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 12:01 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 5.17.22 meeting.
- **Minutes approval**
- Approval for the 5.10.22 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Shah. The minutes for the 5.10.22 meeting was then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

IV. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

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

V. Public Comment

- **Jude Ahmed** – Asked that the commissioners use their networks to highlight that the urban league and redistricting justice for Seattle will host an informational redistricting event that will occur on Friday May 20th at 1PM.

- **Jazmine Smith** – Jazmine noted an interest that Washington Bus has in keeping communities of interest together and prioritizing marginalized populations in the redistricting process over incumbents.

VI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- Commissioner Juarez noted that he received a question from Councilmember Morales around changes to the meeting location for the District 2 Public Forum.
- Department of Neighborhoods staff Logan Drummond shared that staff for Council Member Teresa Mosqueda reached out to staff to ask questions on the Redistricting process.

VII. Public Forum Evaluation

- Commissioners discussed the 5.15.2022 District 1 Public Forum, noting that the meeting was successful, with some minor technical difficulties setting up hybrid meetings. The Redistricting Commissioners thanked the public for their public comments and hope to see more participation at future district forum meetings.

VIII. May 19 District 2 Public Forum Preparation – Agenda, Materials, Roles

- Commissioner O’Sullivan will be giving the presentation on the Redistricting process and informing attendees on the process.
- Department of Neighborhoods External Relations Division Director Waing Waing agreed to take part in the in-person aspect of the District 2 Public Forum, to cover recent staff shortages due to extenuating circumstances.

IX. Retreat format brainstorm – What commissioners need for that day

- Commissioners asked staff to arrange to have the Districting GIS Consultants attend this meeting, and to have large screens and have computers available to work on map possibilities as a group and individually.
- The Redistricting Commission agreed to schedule the Draft Mapping Retreat for August 2nd, 2022 from 5:00PM – 9:00PM in the Bertha Knight Landes (BKL) Room at City Hall.

X. Next meetings, May 10, May 24 – draft map deliberation date – City Hall

- The next meeting of the commission will be at the District 2 Public Forum at El Centro de la Raza Centilia Cultural Centre on May 19th, 2022 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM
- The next regular meeting will be on May 24th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

XI. Public Comment - Continued

- **Gregg Petrie** – Had a question about how the boundary between district 6 and 7 tends to follow water and whether that is a hard boundary or if there is flexibility to include roads and bridges instead. Gregg asked for the raw data used to make these maps and the algorithms that were used to make these maps.
 - Commissioner O’Sullivan noted that the preference is that the commission must consider current district lines and geographical boundaries, but it is not a hard and fast line.
- **Joseph Lachman** – Feedback received on the district 2 public forum is that the location is a high priority for redistricting justice for Seattle, and that they would appreciate having another opportunity for folks to attend and provide public comment at another public forum where Redistricting Commissioners can attend in person and hear from the community in district 2.
- **John Pearson** – Urged Commissioners to keep South Lake Union as part of the same district as downtown. John noted that South Lake Union has more in common with downtown, and that things like zoning and building guidelines line up more with downtown communities.

XII. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez 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 May 24th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 5.15.22 and 5.17.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov