

SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 7th, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on June 14th, 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 Drumond: Department of Neighborhoods, Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney, 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

- To follow the recent amendment by Governor Inslee [House Bill 1329](#), of the Open Public Meeting Act to increase the accessibility of and participation in public meetings. This meeting was held online and in a physical location at the City of Seattle L280 Boards and Commissions Room on floor L2 at 600 4th Avenue, Seattle WA, 98104.
- This meeting was open to the public and was advertised through appropriate channels. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 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 6.07.22 meeting.

IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 5.31.2022 meeting minutes was motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Malaba. The minutes for the 5.31.2022 and were then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.
- Commissioners asked Department of Neighborhoods staff to make edits to the 6.02.2022 meeting minutes to include the presentation agenda item, as well as to note the exchanges between public commenters and Redistricting Commissioners.

V. Received Public Comment Acknowledgement

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

VI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- No conflicts of interest were disclosed at this time by Redistricting Commissioners.

VII. Public Comment

- **Scott Shawcroft** - "Hello first off thank you uh it's refreshing to see you interact with public commenters I watched a lot of the state level redistricting, and this has been great so far so thank you all I had two main things I wanted to talk about one I did send you an email I made this website called mapnote.dev and it's based on commissioner O'Sullivan's desire to just have a very easy way for people to say like this area of the map is what I'm talking about so what happens is that you can go to mapnote.dev uh in the top right you can draw lines you can draw shapes or just drop points and as you do that the url will change because all of the data what you draw on is actually stored in the url so you can draw a shape and then copy the url and send it to somebody else so that they can see the area that you're talking about so I'm a software engineer by training so if you have feedback for me you should have my email I'm happy to make changes to this if you have feedback for me on it I just whipped it up so there's probably bugs and stuff but that's the first thing and I'm happy to talk more about that later the second thing uh is I wanted to defend algorithms a little bit I know that the first two example maps were done by algorithms and one I'd love to see the source code for how those were done I think it's important that people realize there was a comment in one of the recent meetings about how a human touch is more important but I'd like to emphasize that humans create algorithms and so we can iterate on algorithms as humans and produce a result based on how we change the how we change the algorithm so having a source for the two examples and being able to interact iterate on that would be great I'm going to try uh some of my own as well but yeah uh algorithms are good thank you all."
- **Cindy Black** - "Good afternoon commissioners Cindy Black with fixed democracy first in redistricting justice for Washington I had a question you were talking about public comments and maps submitted will the public get access to look at the public comments and the maps that are submitted how will we do that?"
 - Department of Neighborhoods staff and Commissioners noted that they are working on posting all submitted public comments onto the Redistricting website, and that they are welcome to suggestions from the public on how to best make those comments accessible.
- **Gregg Petrie** - "Thank you I would just like to comment on that last person that commented on the value of the possible. Algorithms I would tend to agree given what I've seen it may not be possible to have one do it all, but it could be a valuable tool I think to try out these various methods and just by trying I think you'll gain some sort of insight that will help you draw the final match so in that line I would encourage you to allow people that have software insights a chance to talk with your gis master we could add maybe some insight that would make everybody's life easier uh the second is just a question if there was some mathematical methods well there are mathematical methods that allow you to take complex social data and class it down to a single index that shows the general trends and make a map would that be useful and so that that's a question there are methods if your gis guys are here I'm talking specifically about principal component analysis and spectral angle mapping."

- Commission Chair Juarez noted that Gregg can reach out to staff and the Districting GIS Consultant with his questions about the algorithms used to produce the example maps.

VIII. Public For Review

- Commissioners noted that they would like to add a component to the meetings that allows for the public to use a large map or to have a live editing docent from the Districting GIS Consultants for folks who want to express their preferences in a visual format.

IX. June 9th, District 4 Public Forum Prep

- Commissioners discussed potentially increasing the amount of time that community members can provide public comment as needed at the forums, specifically for individuals who are using interpretation or may be using maps to explain their point.

X. Continue Commission District lines conversation

- Commissioners discussed the possibilities of how they can keep all of Yesler Terrace into District 2 along with the Chinatown international district and incorporating the preferences of what has been shared by community members in both Districts 2 and 3.
- This agenda item will be added to all future agendas, so that the commission can workshop where to put district lines and process feedback from the public forums in real-time to narrow down options.

XI. Mapping Retreat format discussion

- Commissioner discussed some of their preferences for the mapping retreat meeting on August 2nd. Commissioners agreed that most of this meeting will be a working meeting to create and settle on a single draft map, and there will be time for public comments made available during this meeting.

XII. Public Comment – Continued

- **Scott Shawcroft** - " I've got three questions for you, first what is the date of this retreat you're talking about , the other two are food for thoughts how much change will you entertain with the final map proposal so like how much change do you expect to happen once you've kind of all come together on a map and then the other thing is I wanted to point out I believe that the existing districts were not created with public input so I would encourage you to prioritize the public input you're getting this year over the lines that were drawn previously .
- **Commissioner' responses: Commissioner Chair** The retreat is on the public calendar Tuesday august 2nd. I appreciate that so you know those lines unfortunately we are asked to consider the current lines but we do not have the choice to ignore them so your comment is well taken and I think that is a conversation we're going to be having probably for the duration of our time on this commission the second piece is as also reminded me we are required to have public comment at all open public meetings after the 9th of this month so there will be a public comment period at that retreat that will be made available.
- **Commissioner Nickels response** Yes, the lines might have been drawn differently than we are through this commissioner process but the system was voted on by all of voters of the city of Seattle ,so you can't really disown them or I think devalue them, as they were done through a different process, we've been given this process as a follow-up and in the future, there might be additional ways of doing it, that make even better sense so I think Scott I would not devalue the current boundaries.

XIII. Next meetings

- The next regular meeting will be on June 14th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

- Department of Neighborhoods staff Elsa Batres-Boni noted to the public that all future weekly Tuesday meetings will also take place in person at the L280 Boards and Commissions Room at Seattle City Hall 600 4th Avenue, Seattle WA, 98104.
- The next public for of the commission will be at the District 4 Public Forum at the Wallingford Community Senior Center within The Good Shepherd Center at 4649 Sunnyside Ave N # 140, Seattle, WA 98103 on June 9th, 2022, from 5:30PM-7:30PM.
 - Commissioner Patience Malaba will be giving this community the overview presentation on redistricting prior to the public comment period for District 4, and she will also do the presentation in District 5 as it is her home district.

XIV. Adjourn

- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Shah 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 June 14th, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 6.02.22, 6.07.22 and 6.09.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov