

## SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

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**Commissioners Absent:**

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**Commission Staff and Guests:** Logan Drumond: Department of Neighborhoods, Elsa Batres-Boni: Department of Neighborhoods, Ariel Schneier: Assistant City Attorney, Mary Ullrich: Districting GIS Consultant, Dennis Higgins: Districting GIS Consultant

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(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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 questions or concerns from the Commissioners on today’s agenda for the 7.12.22 meeting.

##### **IV. Minutes approval**

- Approval for the 6/28/2022 meeting minutes were motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner O’Sullivan. The minutes were then passed by the Commission unanimously with five yes votes.

##### **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

- **Chris Woodward** - “Good afternoon council members my name is Chris Woodward community development director with the alliance for pioneer square the alliance is a 501c3 neighborhood organization which helps to preserve what makes pioneer square the most authentic engaging and dynamic neighborhood in Seattle oh I lost my targets on behalf of the pioneer square community I'd like to thank the redistricting commission for leading a transparent thoughtful and equitable process to hear from neighborhoods like ours regarding the needs when considering the future of Seattle's city temple districts the pioneer square community acknowledges that the adjacent districts one and two must increase in geographic area while d7 must decrease in size due to population changes we're kind of divided between d7 and d2 at Jackson so for some context there so the commission should consider the following priorities when determining how to redistrict the pioneers for a neighborhood the first one is minimizing further segmentation pioneer square is a really divergent neighborhood in terms of commercial use residential demographics and current city council representation so the commission should consider prioritizing minimizing that further segmentation of the neighborhood to ensure residents have a unified voice when engaging with city leaders the second priority which I think is the most important here is honoring existing district boundaries so pioneer square falls within three existing district boundaries including the pioneer square historic preservation district the pioneer square business improvement area and the metropolitan improvement district I'm happy to provide maps uh all these districts I have previously sent them to the commission but happy to provide them so the commission should honor these existing boundaries to ensure stakeholders are equally aligned representation at that city level we believe that the Seattle redistricting commission can value our priorities and identify areas of compromise to ensure our neighborhoods needs and challenges are comprehend comprehensively represented at the city council level thank you so much.”
- **Commissioner Shah:** Thank you thanks for that feedback about pioneer square it was actually one of my questions I wanted to put out to the group today of better understanding what is considered the geographic boundaries of pioneer square specifically so if you have any direct comment about that if commissioner chair if I'm okay to ask that right now I would love that feedback.
- **Chris Woodward Response** - “So pioneer square is not a square I think that that's uh the first thing that's really obvious you know we have a long tail that stretches from Jackson all the way to royal brown by the stadiums but we also have touch almost all the way to like fourth and James and so yeah it's a unique non-square district the historic boundaries and the bi boundaries are the exact same and then the metropolitan improvement district which stretches further north the triangle into I-5 into the water also overlaps with that footprint but obviously it stands further north so if it's helpful I can drop the district boundary link from the department of neighborhoods for the preservation district into the chat yeah that would be helpful is that is that the district boundary that you're suggesting we use yeah that is that is a dish boundary and I think the other thing I would just say is we know that d1 and d2 have to expand we don't necessarily have a preference so just wanted to get that up there okay thank you thank you.”
- **Gregg Petrie** – “So this is based on the assumption that the social capital is probably the most important thing that that you that you want to value uh save and nurture in the in the future. So

under that assumption what we want to propose is that you optimize to minimize the damage to all the neighborhoods and groups during this effort subject to the standard limits that you always have from an exhibition very well uh some of the issues though that I'm having is I try to solve this sort of a mathematical point of view but there's different problems some communities are just forming not all are known uh there are just too many to look at all the depths uh many can't even speak of for themselves uh this there's a state of flux like Yesler terrace that's changing uh even within the neighborhoods there's a lot of consists of what they want and it's not well defined just like you were talking about pioneer square uh you talk to different people you'll get sort of different definitions. Okay so one solution or to do this is to use all the maps you have and try to identify areas that are that when you add that are much like from a social point of view to the current area, I'm from district four so for instance if you had to make a change they're an add I would go to uh to the north there oh and that looks just like the southern boundary I use gaps to help separate things and if you have to uh take away something uh take away areas that are you know a different I have a series of about a dozen new maps that I use for this process if you're interested we could uh share those with your gis people."

- **Scott Shawcroft** - "I've been doing some automated analysis of the city of Seattle I made a public comment through the forum so hopefully you all got that I just wanted to reiterate it here the analysis is available at [github.com slash tan new t-a-n-e-w-t slash Seattle dash redistricting](https://github.com/tan-new-t-a-n-e-w-t/Seattle-redistricting) there's a directory there called reports and they have dot md files which are markdown files and they'll uh show you a number of different uh ways of viewing a particular district plan on there and I'm happy to add other maps as I see them and Gregg as well if you want to connect up with me you can go there too one of the more interesting ones or first I want to ask what the definition of the one percent uh population constraint is because I did it in terms of one percent of the smallest district and the example map four actually fails that test it might be one percent of the max or one percent of the total number of people I'm not sure. So that's the first thing the second thing is I just added last night this notion of driving diameter which is the greatest driving distance within a particular district and it's meant to be a way to measure compactness meaning how fast people can get from one side of a district to another rather than simply kind of as the crow flies and then lastly I also wanted to acknowledge that I'm doing split analysis so given a set of areas how severely split are those areas not just are they split but how many people are split out of split away from the majority of the other people in the district I got a link to the city clerk neighborhoods that I think is on the reference map but I haven't added those yet I will hopefully this week."
- **City of Seattle Legal Teams guidance is as follows:** Since the language says that the largest district shall not exceed the smallest district (by 1%), the smallest district's population controls. So, if the smallest district's population is 100,000, the largest district's population cannot be more than  $(100,000 + (1\% \text{ of } 100,000))$ , or 101,000.

#### **VIII. Public Forum Prep**

- Commissioner Nickels will be giving this community the overview presentation on redistricting prior to the public comment period for District 6.

#### **IX. Mapping Retreat Agenda Review**

- The Redistricting Commission discussed the agenda for the mapping retreat. Redistricting Commissioners decided to opt for a review of written public comments at the beginning of the meeting and shifting that time for commissioners to present their individual map drafts ideas.

**X. Open District lines options conversation**

- Commissioners shared their most recent work on their individual maps, which they will present officially during the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Mapping Retreat.
- 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. Next meetings - July 19th (new chair), July 26th, no regular meeting on August 2nd - Retreat**

- There will be no regular meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, as this is the day of the draft mapping retreat.
- The Redistricting Commission's next meeting will be on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 12:00pm-1:30pm, during which Redistricting Commissioners will elect the next Commission Chair.

**XII. Public Comment – Continued**

- **Katie Stultz** - "This is Katie Stultz with the redistricting justice for Seattle commission great to be here I just wanted to uh clarify based off of sort of what I just heard we as a coalition just had a big mapping session education session uh last night and we're working to really compile all of our own feedback from folks we've talked with and pull that into really a proposal that we can submit to the commission and just to sort of get a sense of when that could really be the most impactful for you commissioners as you're putting together your draft maps I was curious if there was sort of a date for that that would be particularly helpful it sounds like the 25th is when you're hoping to submit draft maps in preparation for the retreat so curious if that is sooner just knowing that there's also two more uh forums this Thursday and next week we're just trying to organize ourselves so that's my first question if there's just comments that folks could make around that and then the second thing I was curious about was in terms of planning for Thursday's forum I know I mentioned the idea of potentially having folks able to be like naming who's on deck I was also curious if there's any way to actually have it where folks can see other attendees if that's not possible I definitely understand but sometimes that's a little more it's helpful to then be able to sort of see the commissioners and then also to see ourselves as we're giving testimony so just wanted to note that as well and then overall looking at the maps presented today our coalition really loves commissioner shah's map I think it fits mostly with the proposal we've uh our draft proposal that we've shared with our coalition I'm really excited to see I think Yesler terrace still in district two and then also interested to see the makeup of district six moving uh pulling in magnolia and thanks for having me here today thank you so much."
- **Commissioner O'Sullivan**: Yeah from my perspective that the sooner that you can get your proposal in the better so July 25th the date that we're hoping to submit make our proposals public is a Monday uh I would love to have an opportunity to work with our consultant knowing what you know what any other proposals are prior to the 25th meeting the week before so that's next week so this goes for anybody who's submitting a proposed map early next week is if it's possible to submit a map by early next week or late this week it's going to be a lot more easy for me to consider it when I'm putting my map together.
- **Scott Shawcroft** - "Hello thank you, I would like to reiterate the benefit of having the maps publicly available prior to the retreat means folks can write written comment with respect to those maps before your retreat so I would encourage that so please share those and I'd love to see the versions you just shared as well totally understand their drafts but I think it's interesting to be able to run analysis over work in progress to that regard I wanted to just touch on

compactness a little bit more and kind of explain why I think the driving stuff is really interesting uh there's kind of the two other algorithm scores tend to go towards circular shapes and uh there's two threads that I heard a lot particularly at the state level when they were talking about uh district shape one problem that with the circular idea is that you can end up with like ridge lines where you can't actually go from one place to another and that can lead to what looks like a compact uh map but in practice is actually really kind of a pain to get from one place to another so I think driving is interesting uh if you do want to do walking is possible driving was just the easiest thing for me to do and you can't take elevation into account in terms of the walking kind of calculations as well the other thing correlated to driving is this notion or this idea of contiguous one thing to consider is whether you expect to be able to go from anywhere in a district to anywhere else in the district without leaving the district because that's also something I've heard in feedback in terms of different district designs is like people don't tend to like to have to drive through one district to get to another part of their own and so this calculation of the furthest distance is one way to kind of gauge whether that happens or not thank you.”

**XIII. Next meetings**

- The next regular meeting will be on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- The next redistricting public forum will be the District 6 Public Forum at the Ballard Seattle Public Library Branch at 5614 22nd Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107 on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 5:30PM-7:30PM.

**XIV. Adjourn**

- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Malaba motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Nickels seconded. The motion for adjournment was approved unanimously with four yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 7.12.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to [Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov](mailto:Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov)