

## SEATTLE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Approved on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

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**Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner Neelima Shah

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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

- Commissioner O’Sullivan requested to amend agenda to include a discussion about public forums after the mapping retreat.
- There were no questions or concerns from the Commissioners on today’s agenda for the 7.19.22 meeting

##### IV. Minutes approval

- Approval for the 7/12/2022 and 7/14/22 meeting minutes were motioned for a vote by Commissioner Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Malaba. The minutes were then passed by the Commission unanimously with four 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**

- **Gregg Petrie** – “Okay I'm going to talk about some of the maps I use to make an argument that you should try to keep five just took five whole district four whole and move six into seven and seven it could be split I'll serve east west boundary so I got the first line uh caveats on some of these maps I discovered errors in the county data there's missing data there's timely issue errors hopefully no programming errors but I'm still checking that there's some problem with the precinct maps and there are some issues that in the data we could still maybe get some more maps data sets out of these data sets that I haven't done yet the implication is that you might find some of these maps that's useful in your work you can look at them but if you do I my normal standard is in my normal work state when I get a map like that I go through a QA process I bring the map maker in and we discuss some of the things that went into making these maps so you can have confidence that they're correct so again I would claim that if these might be useful for you but if you decide to use them you should have your gis experts look over them pretty thoroughly and vet them before you seriously make emphasis with them. This shows sort of a sort of the median age in Seattle for the voting rolls so these are just the voters, and you can see there's an easy justification in this one for generating the uh the map by separating district seven from east and west. This shows the percent married is certainly blue to remind me that this is an inferred infer data instead of making data directly and I can talk about the rules for making these emphasis about time if you're interested but you can see clearly in in seven that there's a difference between the west and the east in the district so again you know right down the middle to give the west to six and leave seven to be collapsed into sort of the downtown area next this is what I call collective living this could be considered a rough approximation of families and you can see clearly that there's not many families downtown but there's more on the west again an argument for moving six into the west side. This is sort of the ai grouping there's about 10 or so maps that can be generated from the voter data and there's an ai method uh which is really pretty straightforward it's called caney k me's nearest neighbor if your gis expert is online anybody recognizes that I use the album method to figure out that three is the best optimal one and you can see that the computer sort of agrees that downtown is drastically different from the west side and the west side of six and seven have a lot in common at least in terms of voting. This from tax parcels the data that's the main source uh from the county. You've already seen this last time so we'll just skip over these skip this one you've seen these before again just you see the pattern that you could join six and seven on the west it's logical you can see these groupings and the Seattle downtown is really separate from the west side of seven. You can see these sort of multiple family units these are sort of apartments condos um duplexes and the like and you can see that this is heavily used in the downtown area of view district as you sort of expect again you see this difference between the west and downtown. This is sort of gives you the meeting you're built just gives you some idea of the where the changes are occurring next just to you know say this again if you're going to use these maps you have to understand how I found and dealt with the errors in the county data the missing data timely data I couldn't get the most current voting data from the county I got it but it's questionable so i had to use some older data I had I think most of the program is

correct but it'd be useful to go over that with an expert there's problems with the precincts you've probably already found this the fact that some of these precincts are very large for instance in the SODO district but there's no one there so when you look at these maps your eyeball is sort of fooled and there's still a lot of maps data that we could probably extract from these data sets that might be useful for you if you had a chance to talk with some other people maybe we could uh do something with that next and that's it so that was pretty good I don't think I used five minutes.

- **Commissioner Malaba:** Thank you Gregg, I know you didn't use your five minutes and I have a couple of questions because this has been a very helpful data uh for us in reflecting and understanding the districts even more, I'm curious what your high strokes takeaways are on district 5 comparison between the west and east in particular a small pocket of the Matthews beach corner and its similarity with either district 5 or district 4.
- **Gregg Petrie** - "My sense is that it identifies a little better even though it's just one sliver with district 4 more than it identifies with district 5. The Matthews beach corner in district 5 itself yeah, I think if I understand you uh correctly, I'm going back to um that one that connect before to that list. I don't find that well anyway we don't have to go back there I guess my comment is I would argue very strongly that you shouldn't break up five more than you have to you should leave the boundaries if I remember the comments from five everybody in five wanted it to be the same and the one of the reasons why is that there's a lot of people that haven't had a chance to speak and there's a lot of people that these groups are just growing and if you split it in half like that if you make it uh yeah I think you're going to upset a lot of people and uh and I think it's going to harm people and uh four I think you're talking about that little hunk to the north there I talked with people in four they're overjoyed about changes they're a little bit upset that four only has to have minor changes compared to everybody else they don't quite understand why you have to have any changes you know at all so that one in the sort of a color map that has a few changes it takes the stuff from the north and gets away our stuff around east lake but it goes a little bit to the west but that part that grows to the west that's much like is the rest of the area so they can live with that a sort of a bible there I think maybe more than you asked for but that's sort of what I'm sort of shooting for helpful thank you. Thank you I should point out I brought those files and the code that generates those, so I'll leave those so if you want to look at those in detail and look at some of the logic that went into those things it's pretty explicit in the code thank you."

#### **VIII. Public Forum Comments and Preparations**

- The final Public Forum is for District 7, it will take place on zoom and in person at city hall.

#### **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.
- Commissioners agreed to take a Covid-19 test prior to the meeting.
- Legal team staff will find out and advice on further health requirements and recommendations for the in-person meetings.
- Staff will prepare a package with all public submitted maps and comments prior to the retreat.

#### **X. Open District lines options conversation**

- Commissioners Juarez and Malaba 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 is added to all 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 -**

- The Redistricting Commission's next meeting will be on July 26th, 2022, from 12:00pm-1:30pm,
- There will be no regular meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, as this is the day of the draft mapping retreat.
- The commission discussed public forum options after the August 2<sup>nd</sup> retreat. Agreed on having at least 3 public forums between August, September and possibly October. Staff will prepare a calendar proposal for these forums in accordance with the Seattle Charter for the next meeting.

**XII. Elect new commission chair**

- Commissioner Patience Malaba motioned for a vote to elect Commissioner Greg Nickels as the next Commission Chair, seconded by Commissioner Rory O'Sullivan. Unanimously approved by present Commissioners.

**XIII. Public Comment – Continued**

- **Andrew Hong** - "Hi my name is Andrew Hong I'm a statewide coordinator of redistricting justice for Washington and i will be using my public comment time to go over um redistricting justice for Seattle coalition's final map proposal um you all I think I've sent the commissioners or at least the commission email and elsa a pdf with this map all the related files and a report um that details this commission map and or this uh city map proposal and uh yeah i thank you for this time to be able to quickly go over this map um I'll try to shoot for five minutes I think I'll just i think i'll start out going over our oh actually I'll just go in like order of districts so district one um we chose to keep all of West Seattle and south park and tap into district one um as district one had to expand to get about 5 500 more people we chose to cross it all the way over the Duwamish river to include Georgetown and SODO into district one we kept the bound the eastern boundary of district one at i-5 not to split up the beacon hill communities um that are predominantly Asian American communities the part of the south Seattle um kind of population and to finish off district one we took it all the way up to pioneer square and we worked and we have uh you know consensus with Chris Woodward at the alliance for Pioneer Square coalition about this map which keeps pioneer squares defined by the city of Seattle all in district one intact and this has the support of the pioneer square alliance going over to district 2 which is uh you know our coalition's top priority I would say um we kept all of rainier beach and rainier valley and beacon hill and tacked into district 2. district 2 also had to expand to get 6,000 more residents about and so we kept the CID intact and then um after talking to community leaders and residents in Yesler terrace um at you know various events rainier avenue radio folks at the urban league of metro Seattle um we decided to add yester terrace into district two and we have a pretty firm stance on that and so we took the precincts that encompass Yesler terrace all into district two and then to get to finish off district two and get to equal population we added various blocks um what is that east of Rainer avenue and just going northwards including some precincts here near mount one precinct here near mount baker and then precincts that kind of go all the way up to the northwest African American museum but not including that which uh the central area neighborhood district council um and our group collaborate on to make sure that you know this landmark stays in district three and um we have support from their members on this map proposal going over to district 3 we kept it pretty much as least changed along with

the changes you see you know district 2 going a bit further north um and we decided to keep district four north of the cut here and so district three encompasses all of Madison park Broadmoor portage bay and then most of east lake unfortunately east lake had to be split a little bit just to get equal population all of the districts are within one percent population deviation of each other um the largest district I believe in our map is district five and the or the largest magnitude district I forget exactly what the numbers but they're all within one percent deviation of each other so that is our district three proposal um for districts. I think I'll just go to district seven over here we kept we tried to keep the downtown neighborhoods is uh together in district seven as possible of course we had to compromise with pioneer square and uh arguably first hill here, but all of the business district and bell town and south lake union is all in district seven along with global Queen Anne um and Queen Anne itself and going all the way up into Interbay and so and we did this to try to you know you know realize that the largest population growth in this city and in this district is in the south lake union lower queen and downtown area so we wanted to make sure that those communities weren't split up but were you know centered in the process of redrawing district 7 which had to change quite a bit um due to population growth so that was our decision to make sure those communities weren't split and instead uh put magnolia into district okay obviously I'll speed up on this and to put magnolia into district six so district six was our choice to move the uh one north end district south of the cut um and we did this for a variety of reasons one you know coalition members from our coalition who lived in district 7 thought this made more sense and also kept you know the growing renter and youth population district seven uh together in district seven and also a lot of magnolia families go to Ballard high school which is in district six and then districts four five and six are um we got less community input and our coal chambers know less about this price area so we're not as uh certain about these specific boundary lines but we decided to keep district six all west of aurora avenue as kind of a barrier there um and then district five we made sure to keep BIPOC communities um that are quickly diversifying all together in district, so we kept the diversifying communities out in like aurora avenue and Northgate and lake city all together as a community of interest and then um move district five appropriately kind of southward in a horizontal fashion to into district four which keeps the u district uh laurel hurst Ravenna all intact and also at district four as you know district six had to expand south we moved it further west to include green lake and uh all of Wallingford in a bit of Fremont um while keeping it east of aurora avenue and that finishes our map I'd love to answer any questions um and also i invite all the commissioners to read our report that includes all the community input that we got um as well as some more explanations in detail thank you."

- **Commissioner Nickels Response:** Andrew thank you and the coalition for all the work that you've put in throughout this process it's been very helpful i think to all of us on the commission and has gotten us thinking in different ways than perhaps we came into this process I've got a specific question and I think I could probably answer it but there is a historic connection between Georgetown and south park and you acknowledge that by putting them reuniting them within the same district but there's a similar connection between Queen Anne and magnolia they shared a community newspaper for generations they also shared a high school and I guess now chair Ballard high um and so I'm wondering if there was any conversation about splitting Queen Anne and magnolia apart uh in your in your map

- **Andrew Hong:** Yeah the conversation kind of was not just about whether you know we should split queen magnolia um I don't think our coalition necessarily wanted to do that it was more of also a comparison you know does it make sense to split parts of Montlake and Madison park away from district three and we thought that it was it made better sense in terms of the neighborhood and community of interest perspective to loop magnolia into district 6. This map was unanimously approved by our coalition members we collaborated with um several community organizations that are listed on our website um from south park to the CID to the central district rainier beach especially kind of districts one two three and seven great thank you so much.”

**XIV. 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 7 Public Forum at the Bertha Knight Landes (BKL) Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor at City Hall at 600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle WA, 98104 on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, from 5:30PM-7:30PM.
- In late August and early September, the Seattle Redistricting Commission will hold three public forums: One forum will take place during a regularly scheduled meeting on a Tuesday, one forum will take place in the evening on a weekday, and another will take place on a weekend to allow for as much feedback on the new map draft.

**XV. Adjourn**

- Commission Chair Eliseo EJ Juárez 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 four yes votes.
- The next Seattle Redistricting Commission meeting will be on Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.
- Redistricting Commissioners - Send any comments or recommended changes for 7.19.22 and 7.21.22 minutes before the next meeting.
- Questions and comments, please send them to [Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov](mailto:Elsa.Batres-Boni@seattle.gov)