



King County

Meeting Minutes King County Districting Committee

Friday, January 22, 2021
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Sophia Danenberg, Paul Graves, Cherryl Jackson-Williams and Rob Saka.

County Staff:

Patrick Hamacher, Simon Farretta, Erin Arya, Mike Sinsky and Mari Isaacson.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Hamacher at 10:02 am.

2. Welcome from Council Chair Claudia Balducci

King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci thanked the members for volunteering their time and expertise to serve on the committee noting that this is the first nonpartisan Districting Committee. She urged members not to shy away from difficult, but meaningful discussions as they work through the tasks before them and to offer feedback freely to each other. Constructive conflict and engaging are critical to good, enduring decision making. Chair Balducci also conveyed the support of the entire Council.

3. Introductions of county staff

County staff providing support to the districting committee briefly introduced themselves. They are Patrick Hamacher, Simon Farretta, Erin Arya, Mike Sinsky, and Mari Isaacson.

4. Introductions of Districting Committee members

Members of the Districting Committee briefly introduced themselves. They are Sophia Danenberg, Paul Graves, Cherryl Jackson-Williams and Rob Saka.

5. Overview of process and key deadlines

Patrick Hamacher provided an overview of the decisions key dates and issues that the committee will face in 2021. He noted the committee will need to elect a fifth member to serve as Chair. They will also need to select a Districting Master by April 1. The districting plan will be submitted to the County Clerk by December 31. He noted there is no county council process after submission. The boundaries they submit will be the new council districts. He also noted a bill that has been introduced in Olympia that could shorten their timeline by six weeks.

6. High level training on the Open Public Meetings Act and public records

Mike Sinsky provided training to the members of the committee on three laws fundamental to their work: The Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records Act and records retention requirements.

7. Discussion/decision on the process to select the Chair

Patrick presented possible options for the committee to consider in selecting its Chair as set forth in the King County Charter 650.30.20. Members decided each member would identify individuals that might excel in serving as chair and the committee would discuss those individuals at the next meeting with each member soliciting nominees as desired in order to act as expediently as possible. Some members noted the time constraints made it difficult to have an advertised process.

8. Future topics and next meeting

There was discussion of the best times to hold the next meeting. The committee showed interest in the following Friday with direction that staff will follow up with members to finalize the next committee meeting date and time.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.