



King County
Meeting Minutes
King County Districting Committee

Thursday, July 8, 2021
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Ann Schindler, Chair, Sophia Danenberg, Cherryl Jackson-Williams and Rob Saka

Members Excused:

Paul Graves

County Staff:

Patrick Hamacher, Simon Farretta, Erin Arya, Tania Santiago Pastrana, Mari Isaacson, Vazaskia Cockrell, Reeni Nair and Renita Borders

Districting Master:

Dennis Higgins, King County GIS

1. Call to Order

Chair Schindler called the meeting to order at about 7:03 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes from June 26, 2021

Member Saka moved approval of the minutes from June 26, 2021. Member Danenberg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Disclosure of contacts per Operating Procedure 4.6 and the Districting Master MOU

There were no disclosures.

4. Update: community outreach plan

Staff provided an update of the community outreach plan. Staff is attempting to schedule all of the meetings by mid-August, but noted that a few might run into early September. Staff provided updates on event planning with the Lived Experience Coalition and Korean American Coalition town hall.

Chair Schindler asked for discussion and approval of the outreach questions. Hearing no objections, the questions were approved.

The Committee discussed whether or not to invite the political party organizations into the process and decided that the parties would know how to engage through the regular channels if they would like to do so. Chair Schindler asked that it be made clear on the website that the committee is a non-partisan body and follows all statutory criteria including not favoring or disfavoring a political party.

Staff provided an update on the outreach conversations with the Latinx community. Erin and Tania will be presenting to the staff at El Centro de la Raza. The committee authorized Tania to conduct a radio interview on its behalf in Spanish.

Member Saka requested that staff create an informational handout to support the Committee's outreach efforts and events.

5. Committee Discussion: King County Council engagement strategy

Chair Schindler presented the options previously raised by staff for how best to engage the members of the King County Council. The proposal consisted of two options: either Councilmembers provide written feedback or request to meet with the committee at a regularly scheduled meeting. The committee approved the proposal with the amendment of strongly encouraging written feedback and inviting Councilmembers to request to meet with the members at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Districting Committee.

6. Training: King County's Journey towards Equity & Social Justice

King County Council Equity & Social Justice Director Vazaskia Cockrell, Equity & Social Justice Coordinator Reeni Nair and Council Administrator Renita Borders presented to the Committee about King County's equity & social justice (ESJ) history, ESJ efforts within the legislative branch, community engagement, cross-cultural communication and equity, diversity and inclusion foundational knowledge.

7. Districting Master updates

The Districting Master thanked the committee on Greg Babinski's behalf for having him at the last meeting. Districting Master staff is planning for trial runs so they are ready when the Census data arrives in August. The Districting Master reminded committee members that they are limited to Census blocks as their least common denominator so clean street boundaries are only possible to the extent they align with Census blocks. Splitting Census blocks is not possible because it gets into speculation of the population.

8. Staff updates

Staff noted that Members Danenberg and Saka will do the filming with King County TV.

9. Chair updates

No updates.

10. Adjournment

Chair Schindler adjourned the meeting at about 9:27 p.m.