

City of Everett
Districting Commission Special Meeting
Monday – November 18, 2019

Location: Everett Council Chambers Time: 6:00 p.m.
Everett Council Chambers – 3002 Wetmore Ave – Everett WA

AGENDA

- District Commission Roll Call
- Approve minutes
- Staff Comments

Item 1: Q&A Conference with Tony Fairfax (15min) – clarifying question to his previously submitted written answers.

Item 2: Q&A with Sammamish Data Systems (15min) - clarifying question to his previously submitted written answers.

Item 3: Districting Master Discussion and Appointment

Notes:

Meeting Schedule: Dec 2nd (if needed), Jan 6th (set reoccurring meeting schedule).

City of Everett Districting Commission

Meeting Date and Time: October 14, 2019 6:00 PM

District Commission Roll Call

In Attendance: Simone Tarver, Chris Geray, Ethel McNeal, Benjamin Young, James Langus, John Monroe, Mary Fosse, Kari Quaas, Julius Wilson

Not in Attendance:

City Staff in Attendance: Nichole Webber, Flora Diaz, Administration Intern Jamie Smith

Approve minutes: Simone Tarver made the motion, John Monroe and Ethel McNeal seconded— **motion passes 9:0**

Chair Comments: Simone Tarver – agenda has been updated to allow more time to discuss a District Master

Vice Chair Comments: Chris Geray – None

Staff Comments: Introduce legal representative Flora and address letter from Everett Districts Now

- Please include EDN and the chairs of all Everett neighborhoods on any distribution list for official announcements and communications related to districting to increase outreach and public engagement.
 - *There is no distribution list, all material will be or is online.*
- Please provide clarity for the process for selecting “alternates” to the districting commission should a vacancy occur.
 - *If there is an alternate needed, it will go back to council – geographic diversity will be a selection factor.*
- Please consider rotating the location of the meetings in a setting that still allows recording but is hosted in other parts of the city. (For example – the south precinct common room, Evergreen Middle School or a location in Delta.)
 - *Because we stream these meeting on the Everett Chanel, that would be very difficult to do.*
- Please consider accepting public comments at the beginning of the meetings.
 - *This will be considered at a future meeting, after the Master is selected.*

Item 1: Staff Presentation– Nichole Webber

- Background – independent commission
- Process – districting plan

- Requirements -
- Definitions -
- Districting Master – requirements

Item 2: Districting Master

Review of district master procurement process and possible candidates: The Everett Purchasing Department is currently searching for candidates and will continue to look until the 24th of October. The group is open to having the Everett Planning Department participate in supporting the master and providing input through the map drawing process.

Geographic and “number” conversation: What can each candidate can provide and what can the city do? The City of Everett is currently requesting information from all the potential candidates and will have a better idea once they receive written proposals and have interviews with the commission.

Prior to our next meeting: (the Friday before) city staff will provide the appropriate material to the commission to ensure they can prepare.

Next meeting dates: Nov 4th and 18th motion made by John Monroe, seconded by Kari Quaas **-motion passes 9:0**

Appointment conversation/clarification: The commission can appoint a master and or another expert, so long as it’s reasonable and aligns with the council approved budget.

Community engagement conversation before the map is drawn: Waiting for a map before getting community input, understanding why the map was drawn that way, and giving the commission a starting place.

Understanding potential costs of a master: volunteer applicant to high cost

Nov 4th and 18th: will be used to interview and discuss applicants – all candidates will be invited to attend the 4th.

The commission elected to standardize questions and send them to the candidates prior to the Nov 4th meeting.

Each commissioner will contribute a written question to staff on or before Oct 24th – legal and planning will review.

Discussion Closed

Item 3: Open Discussion

Public Comment – ground rules. Motion by Simone Tarver to hold on accepting public comment until after the master is selected at that point we can bring this conversation backup and decide when we will accept comment and perimeters around it. Seconded by John Monroe **motion passes 9:0**

December council meeting update – Simone Tarver to update DATE TBA

December meeting conversation – holding Dec 2nd as a potential meeting date

Materials Provided:

- Agenda
- Minutes from 9.30.19
- Everett Districts Now letter
- Staff Presentation
- Master inquires

Next Meeting: 11/04/19 at 6:00 PM

Adjourned: 7:20 PM

City of Everett Districting Commission

Meeting Date and Time: November 04, 2019 6:00 PM

District Commission Roll Call

In Attendance: Simone Tarver, Chris Geray, Ethel McNeal, Benjamin Young, James Langus, John Monroe, Mary Fosse, Kari Quaas, Julius Wilson

Not in Attendance:

City Staff in Attendance: Nichole Webber, David Stalheim, Flora Diaz

Approve minutes: Minutes to be approved on 11.18.19

Chair Comments: Excited about the process and good attendance

Vice Chair Comments: None

Item 1: Districting Master Interview with Tjalling Ypma (TJ).

Simone Tarver asked Mr. Ypma the attached questions. Once finished, TJ asked the commission what issues they see in the community that need to be addressed.

1. Disparity between north, south, east, west- The north west leads Everett and districts will help with the distribution of power.
2. The commission has not had a full discussion about the issues because the 90 day deadline to hire a master has been the priority.
3. Special interests in the community.

TJ replied: Each District will be about 20,000 people and that might make special interests influence difficult. He also inquired about the Everett Districts Now work, their master and the Silverlake Neighborhood lines and unincorporated Everett. Conversation around Everett Dist Now material and process on hold until after the appointment of a master.

Jim Langus referred to a memorandum produced by Hough Spitzer and COE Legal Department to ensure TJ had seen it.

TJ reiterated his belief in a very open and involved process.

Flora Diaz clarified the 6 public meeting process for TJ and the commission. The six required meetings are for the community once the commission feels they have a finished product. There can still be edits made but the commission should feel confident in the product before they begin this final phase. The commission can have as many meetings as they like leading up to this point.

Tony Fairfax Census Chanel LLC – Short conversation on the difference in price because Tony is out of state. Discussion of Tony's resume is on hold until we can video conference him or have heard from all candidates. This way all candidates can be evaluated at once on the 18th in a more fair manner.

The commission also asked to have all candidates submit their answers in writing to help with there discussion.

Clarification from the Planning Department: Shape files, census blocks, subdivision of blocks, the difference between having a master who does their own GIS work vs the Planning Department, city's responsibility to check the work.

Benjamin Young expressed concern around the City of Everett Planning participating too much and the perception that might create in the community. There was also concern around communication between staff and the master. Having Simone or other commissioners cc'd would be helpful and will continue transparency moving forward.

Commission discussed the length of the next meeting; the start time will stay 6:00 and meeting will run until there is a final decision on the master appointment.

Jim Langus express confidence in city staff to support the commission in an honest and independent way.

Item 2: Discussion Items - non

Materials Provided:

- Interview packets from Ypma Tjalling and Tony Fairfax
- Districting Master Roles and Responsibilities

Next Meeting: 11/18/19 at 6:00 PM

Adjourned: 7:06 PM

Districting Budget Estimate

	<u>Low Estimate</u>	<u>High Estimate</u>	<u>Average</u>
FY 2019 Summary	\$ 600	\$ 6,700	\$ 3,650
FY 2020 Summary	\$ 3,300	\$ 82,600	\$ 42,950
Total	\$ 3,900	\$ 89,300	\$ 46,600

FY 2019

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Low Estimate</u>	<u>High Estimate</u>	<u>Average</u>
Districting Master	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Community Outreach			
Commission applicants	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 750
Community Meetings (6 min)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Outreach	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 750
Commission Meeting Refreshments	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 150
Outside Counsel	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Contingency - MISC	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 250
TOTAL	\$ 600	\$ 6,700	\$ 3,650

FY 2020

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Low Estimate</u>	<u>High Estimate</u>	<u>Average</u>
Districting Master	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ 17,500
Community Outreach			
Commission applicants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Community Meetings (6 min)	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500
Total Outreach	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500
Community meeting facility rental	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,250
Community meeting refreshments	\$ 300	\$ 600	\$ 450
Community meeting facilitator	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Outside Counsel	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000
Contingency - MISC	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,250
Mapping software	\$ -	TBD	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 3,300	\$ 82,600	\$ 42,950



EVERETT

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Districting Commission Next Steps

1. Appoint Districting Master
2. Enter into a Professional Services Agreement
3. Master will request needed information from the City of Everett Planning Department IE:
 - Geographic information system files, such as city limits, neighborhood boundaries, voting precincts, school district boundaries, major landmarks, park locations, etc.
 - New housing unit data (location and number of units) since the 2010 Census
 - Everett District Now boundary files
4. Master will work with commission to understand communities of mutual interest IE:
 - Neighborhood lines
 - School districts
 - North, south, east, west Everett
 - Parks in areas
5. Commission may choose to request information or material from EDN to better understand the process.

Everett Districting Commission,
District Master Interview Questions
Nov 4th and 18th 2019

Tony Fairfax, CensusChannel LLC Responses

1. Please introduce yourself and provide a brief overview of your background and familiarity with Everett.

My name is Anthony Fairfax; however, I usually go by my nickname of Tony. I am the CEO and Principal Consultant for CensusChannel LLC, a demographic and mapping consulting firm.

I began my career as an electrical engineer working for a manufacturing company and then a government engineering consulting firm. However, after working several years as an engineer, and following a brief stint at co-owning a computer training business in the late 1980s, I began to provide consulting services on my own. After consulting for a year or so, I obtained a contract at Norfolk State University working on their Redistricting Research Project as their GIS consultant which dramatically change the course of my career.

Hence, twenty-eight (28) years, three (3) redistricting cycles, a variety of clients, and nearly one thousand redistricting plans later brings me to this point in my life. During that period of time, I started my business (CensusChannel LLC 10 years ago), obtained my Master's in Geospatial Information Science and Technology (MGIST), and reached a level in my profession where I have developed expert reports, provided depositions, and testified in state and federal court as a redistricting expert witness.

I have a basic familiarity with Everett. I know that Everett is a midsize city with approximately 110,000 persons and is located about 25 miles north of Seattle, WA. I know that the city has voted on and approved a 5-2 districting plan scheme and the utilization of a District Commission to develop the plan.

2. Have you ever worked for a districting commission or like body? Please explain. If not, what background do you have that might be similar?

I have not worked for a districting commission. However, I have always developed a plan with the input from one or more persons. In some cases (e.g. the recent Bethune Hill Virginia court case's remedial plan for the NAACP), there could be suggestions from multiple or dozens of persons at meetings.

3. Please explain how you view the role of district master.

I view my role as District Master as an advisor and an implementer. I am an advisor to provide insight into the development of a legal and fair redistricting plan. And I am an implementer in the sense that I will use my technical skills and knowledge to accomplish the goals and objectives of the District Commission and the citizens of Everett, WA. It is important to note that I believe that the districting plan is not my plan, but the city's plan. I am just a conduit to ensure that the city achieves its objectives.

4. How would you keep open communication and the districting commission informed?

As I mentioned in the RFP response, I will respond to communications (via telephone or email) from the District Commission within one business day. Of course I understand certain situations, thus in emergencies, I will respond throughout the weekend and holidays as well. In addition, I will submit regular status on the development process of the plan.

5. What is the biggest problem that you would expect to face when creating a district map?

The biggest problem that I expect is that there will be no way to implement 100% of everyone's desires. Inevitably, there will be District Commissioners who will not be 100% satisfied and citizens that feel the same way. That said, the Districting Commission and citizens should be satisfied greater than a simple majority and more like a super majority.

6. What familiarity do you have working with shape files?

I have extensive experience working with shapefiles. I use shapefiles regularly in my normal work routine and my master's required the use of shapefiles extensively throughout many of the courses.

7. How do you plan to understand and ensure communities of mutual interest are not separated? What does the term "communities of mutual interest" mean to you?

First, communities of mutual interest or communities of interest, refers to a common interest or even concern shared by a voting group within defined geographic areas. One of the keys to communities of mutual interest lies with the geographic areas. In essence, if there is a mutual interest that is scattered throughout the city, there will be no way to ensure that this population group can be contained within a district. Thus, there has to be a way to defined the geographic areas as well as the mutual interest.

Understanding communities of mutual interest, is best achieved by querying local community organizations. These entities are in the best position to understand the interests of the communities that they represent. Finally, mutual interest could refer to almost anything that a particular community shares a concern or interest around (e.g. education, crime, poverty, race/ethnicity, language, geography, etc.).

8. There are two key tactics used in gerrymandering; Cracking and Packing. How would you prevent this from happening?

The way to prevent packing and cracking is to not unduly separate (crack) or excessively cluster (pack) a racial minority voting group (to include ethnic minorities) into one or more districts. This dilutes the population group's voting strength. Determining whether cracking or packing has occurred varies depending upon the jurisdiction's demographic makeup and geographic dispersion of the voting group (as well as considering turnout percentages, specifically for packing). When drawing plans in a jurisdiction with significantly populated racial groups (to include ethnic minorities), care must be given to not crack or pack the group and yet at the same time not have race predominate.

To prevent cracking from occurring, attention should be given to preserving whole neighborhoods or communities, regardless of their racial makeup. In addition, although race can not predominate plan development, there is nothing wrong with placing communities with similar commonalities (communities of interest) that happen to have similar racial makeup into the same district in a compact manner.

To avoid packing during any plan development, the use of minority percentage targets and splitting areas such as precincts (or VTDs) along racial lines should be eliminated. Second, including majority minority areas in a non-compact fashion should also be avoided. Third, viewing racial percentages of the districts, especially “near the end” of plan development, is a useful check to ensure that an excessive amount of minority voters have “not” been placed in a particular district. Once again, “excessive” depends upon the specific jurisdiction and specific minority voting group.

9. How would you suggest presenting the Districting Map to the people of our city?

The final map should be presented online as well as at a public meeting. That said, the public should be kept informed of prior draft versions of the map. I noticed that Everett has launched a new “open data portal” this year. This portal may be perfect for disseminating district maps and reports.

10. What assistance do you expect or need from City staff to support your work?

I expect that I need assistance from the city by providing shapefiles reflecting neighborhoods, communities, critical subdivision areas as well as precincts. If the District Commission desires to consider major landmark areas, such as malls, parks, etc., those shapefiles will be necessary. Also needed would be a shapefile or the addresses of the current incumbents. Finally, if staff can provide background insight into various communities and their commonalities (or lack thereof), that would be helpful as well.

11. Are you willing to attend community meetings once we have a draft map(s) ready for the community to provide input on?

Yes, I am willing to attend community meetings.

Everett Districting Commission, District Master Interview Questions

Sammamish Data Systems

1. Please introduce yourself and provide a brief overview of your background and familiarity with Everett.

I have been with SDS since 1987. I was a support person on implementing GIS systems to Government, Political parties, and other interested groups for the 1991 redistricting season, directly supporting the current Districting Master and learning from him. For the 2001 and 2011 I worked as the full time Districting Master completing hundreds of adopted plans throughout the state. I have been elected to my condominium's Board and worked as an Officer overseeing a budget of 3.5 million and special assessment of over 4 million. I have had to make some very unpopular decisions to significantly raise dues to stop deferred maintenance. I have also volunteered advice to my local School District on projecting growth and planning. I am also a Veteran. I have served in the US Army Reserves, AZ National Guard, and WA National Guard. I have received honors for volunteering to be activated for fighting forest fires.

As a child, I recall the days of the wood pulp mills in Tacoma and Everett. I always like going to Everett and enjoy sports/recreation in your fine city. The traffic to, from, and through Everett can be a bit of a challenge. I have previously listed some of note in your area. Often, I like the AFK Tavern, and I have visited businesses up and down Broadway, but I am not a big fan of the slow downs on I-5 through town.

2. Have you ever worked for a districting commission or like body? Please explain. If not, what background do you have that might be similar?

I have been with SDS since 1987. I was a support person on implementing GIS systems to Government, Political parties, and other interested groups for the 1991 redistricting season, directly supporting the current Districting Master and learning from him.

You can make any guidelines the whole council wants, but I will make suggestions on your guidelines, such as "No" on Precinct boundaries being used as the basis for a plan. That is an outmoded basis of districting used by jurisdictions that make it harder to adhere to RCW 29A.76.010 (3e) "existing recognized natural boundaries" since Precincts are made up of population numbers and not following natural boundaries.

3. Please explain how you view the role of district master from the districting commission. N/A
4. How would you or did you, keep open communication and the districting commission informed?

I will present my work to staff and answer all questions to the best of my abilities. I will provide maps and reports in PDF along with an interchange file in dBase (.DBF) format for the GIS department to import my Census Block assignments in the local GIS system. When a plan that I

present is ready to move forward with final acceptance, I will create a Metes and Bounds legal description.

5. What is the biggest problem that you would expect to face when creating a district map?

I do not have any problem doing this work. I rather enjoy doing it. I designed the software to do what I want it to do.

6. What familiarity do you have with shape files?

N/A

7. How do you plan to understand and ensure communities of mutual interest are not separated? What does the term communities of mutual interest mean to you?

That is for you to decide. In the case of Pierce County, communities of interest were defined to me as whole cities or Census designated places. In the case of large rural school districts, whole towns can be communities of mutual interest.

The Port of Everett used communities of common interest of whole Precincts, when drawing their districts, but that was their history to use whole Precincts. It is very rare to draw boundaries using Precincts now. They can be limiting and the County no longer requires it.

Legally, it is the lowest on the list of requirements and does not trump other aspects of the law. That has been my experience so far

8. There are two principal tactics used in gerrymandering; Cracking and Packing. Can you provide a plan to prevent this from happening?

Cracking and Packing what? I do not recall there being a large dense minority area to water down or to pack, forcing an over consolidation. The PL 94-171 only has racial data and population counts. I do not look at any other data while doing this.

I try to not create any boundary that intentionally favors any party other than the intention to keep any members in their existing district.

9. How would you suggest presenting the Districting Map to the people of our city?

I will present my work to staff and answer all questions to the best of my abilities. I will provide maps and reports in PDF along with an interchange file in dBase (.DBF) format for the GIS department to import my Census Block assignments in the local GIS system. When a plan that I present is ready to move forward with final acceptance, I will create a Metes and Bounds legal description.

10. What assistance do you expect or need from City staff to support your work?

N/A

11. Are you willing or able to attend community meetings once we have a draft map(s) ready for the community to provide input on?

As a Redistricting Master, I am currently doing this part time. Even though the 2011 season is long since over, people still need redistricting or districted plans for the first time. When 2021 comes around, I will be working full time, and fully expect to be 'over-worked' getting all the redistricting plans completed on time.

Everett Districting Commission,
District Master Interview Questions
Nov 4th and 18th 2019

Tjalling Ypma, Chair of the Math Dept. WWU, Responses

1. Please introduce yourself and provide a brief overview of your background and familiarity with Everett.

I'm Tjalling Ypma, I am Dutch, and Chair of the Math Department at Western Washington University. I believe you have all seen the materials I provided so I am not going to drag you through more of that. Regarding what I know of Everett, other than the traffic jams on I-5: I've Google-earthed, I've looked at the school district maps, I've looked at some of the things that are on various districting websites, like Everett Districts Now, and so on. I have a reasonable overview of the geography, and maybe of some of the concerns. But I have a lot of questions I want to ask you, and if we do things how I'd prefer to do them, you'd be helping me out a lot with figuring out what makes sense and what doesn't make sense.

2. Have you ever worked for a districting commission or like body? Please explain. If not, what background do you have that might be similar?

I have served as the District Master for Whatcom County Council twice, once in the 2010 census and a few years ago when the council districts changed from 3 to 5, which was an extremely politically hot situation. I developed a process there, which was previously very ill-defined in the Charter, a process I found to be efficient, effective, and straightforward. If I were to help you out with your challenge, I would probably use that process again. That process seems to be different than how your questions seem to expect I would proceed; the questions are framed in a way I would not proceed. In particular, I would be looking for a much more interactive and iterative process than seems to be assumed. I would provide drafts that would be discussed here by the committee, open to public input, at which point I would go away and draw up another draft; as opposed to here where it seems to be assumed that I would go away and just draw up a single map and then let people argue over it. That is not the way I intend to proceed.

In my work with Whatcom county I reported to a committee of two democrats and two republicans. It was very clear what the issues were and what the factions were. If I were to work here I'd ask you those questions: what are the issues and factions. In those cases I managed to navigate the various issues successfully in each case, and my final proposals were unanimously adopted.

3. Please explain how you view the role of district master.

You work for the committee, but you also do some leading of the committee; there is committee management involved. The way I work is I take the input I get from the committee and from the public, and try to incorporate that into a new version of the map which responds to some of the issues or concerns I've heard, and turn that in for further discussion. Drawing up the maps is a big part of the role, as well as keeping the process moving forward at a reasonable pace.

4. How would you keep open communication and the districting commission informed?

You have a website. I would think anytime I produce a draft map, which I assume would be every 2 or 4 weeks or however frequently you meet, you would post the map and it would be open for discussion. We can invite everyone to speak up and let them argue about things they like and what they don't like. I would assume an extremely interactive and open process between the committee and myself.

5. What is the biggest problem that you would expect to face when creating a district map?

That I don't have an intimate knowledge of how Everett works. In Whatcom county I've ridden my bicycle in pretty much every corner there, I know how it works and I've lived there for years, I know how the county works and what the issues are. I don't have that kind of connection or knowledge of the lay of the land in Everett, and so that is a situation I'd be extremely dependent on input from the public and the committee members to help me figure out what makes sense and what doesn't make sense. As the Math Department Chair, I'm used to putting out a draft proposal and letting faculty rip it apart and telling me what they don't like, and then fixing it until we settle on something that works, so that's the way I would see things happening over here: my draft maps will probably be full of stuff you don't like, and I will then massage it into something that people are happy with in response to your input.

6. What familiarity do you have working with shape files?

None, and I don't intend to acquire any knowledge of that at all because the way I work would be with the GIS department of the city, they would do all the work on the city data and maps. I would strongly recommend that whoever you have do the job work that way, because that way you know the numbers they're working with and the maps that they're working with. Also, my communication would be all on the public record, I prefer it that way.

7. How do you plan to understand and ensure communities of mutual interest are not separated? What does the term "communities of mutual interest" mean to you?

Well like I said I don't have firsthand knowledge of the exact lay of the land in Everett, so I would be to a significant extent dependent on the input from the people here, for example telling me that some boundary I propose cuts right through a neighborhood that shouldn't be split in that way. I did see in some of the online materials that neighborhoods were the entity the public wanted to see preserved, and districting should thus be centered around neighborhoods. That makes sense, neighborhoods do typically represent certain communities of interest. A community of interest is people with similar geographic factors, economic factors, ethnic factors, all those issues are there. Typically, not always, neighborhoods kind of designate areas of mutual interest, but again there I would be very much subject to input from the locals who know what the issues are in particular areas. For example, one issue I noticed looking at the ethnic distribution, was that Casino Corner I think it's called, seems to have a very strong Hispanic presence, which would influence where I would draw a border line. Ethnicity is certainly something I would have to take into account, and I assume there are other factors that are important to the community here. One of the questions I have for you is what are those issues ?

8. There are two key tactics used in gerrymandering; Cracking and Packing. How would you prevent this from happening?

Both of these are hard to define, as is gerrymandering in general, you know it when you see it. I'll take the example of what I did with Whatcom County, the city was Democrat, the farmlands are Republican, is it packing Democrats when you form two districts purely out of Bellingham city? No, because it's where people live. Sometimes to avoid something that would seem like packing, you would have to do some gerrymandering, you might have to force something that is 50% Republican and 50% Democrat. I didn't do any of that, I did what made sense in terms of the geographic distribution and communities of interest, which were pretty clearly defined in that context. So, when you do things in a public setting like Everett proposes to do, I don't think that these are going to be problematic issues.

9. How would you suggest presenting the Districting Map to the people of our city?

As I've said before, you've got a website. Every time I put out a draft map it should be posted right there, open to input, and I assume the public is invited to these meetings. I don't know to what extent they're invited to provide input, but I would be totally open to doing that. I've proposed a process in which successive maps are put out and refined, in fact what I've done in the Whatcom County context is that I had two parallel streams, with plan A which kept getting refined and another plan B which kept getting refined, and eventually we had to make a decision as to which of the two routes we were going to adopt in the end. But all that was up front at every step, with printed copies of the maps available for anybody coming to the committee meeting, and all will be available on the website in as much detail as anybody wants to see.

10. What assistance do you expect or need from City staff to support your work?

The GIS support I previously mentioned, as well as a clear line of communication between the committee and myself. I don't want to be dealing with individual committee members and I don't want anybody to think that anybody else has any influence on me. In the case of Whatcom County, I worked with the county clerk, here I imagine I would work with the committee chair or Nichole, one designated person in charge of communication between myself and the committee and who is also responsible for posting things on the website.

11. Are you willing to attend community meetings once we have a draft map(s) ready for the community to provide input on?

Certainly yes. I kind of think we may want to rethink some of the procedures I've seen outlined, which seem to suggest it would be A, I produce a map, and then B, a series of community meeting with each of the 5 districts. I wonder if we could redo some of that, with perhaps some initial meetings with the draft maps. The screens in this room will facilitate exploring the options. But yes, it makes total sense that once we settle on something, subject to further refinement, at some point you have to go out to the districts, and it'd make sense that I go there and hear what the locals have to say.