



V-MCC: *Many Voices. Collective Action. Stronger Together.*

Vashon-Maury Community Council Board of Directors Meeting, Thursday, July 3, 2025

Version date: July 7, 2025 (v3)

Location: Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Rd, and on Zoom

Board Members Present: Nicole Aine (NA), Doug Ostrum (DO), Chris Graham (JCG), Jessica Anakar (JA), Jennifer Hrachovec (JH)

Excused: Ann Thorn

Minutes taken by Jennifer Hrachovec

Reading of Land Acknowledgment – Corresponding Secretary Jessica Anakar

Finalize minutes of *previous* Board of Directors meeting:

Motion (JA), Second (DO), approved (unanimous)

Self-introductions of guests – Diane Emerson

The agenda was finalized for *this* Board of Directors meeting

Passed by acclamation

Formal Announcement of Board or Director Election Results

JA reported that Jen Hrachovec was approved as Board Member by Mailchimp vote

Election of Jen Hrachovec as V-MCC Secretary

Approved (4 votes for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

Appointment of Jen Hrachovec as Chair of the Communications Committee of the Board

Motion (JCG), Second (JA), Passed by acclamation

Officer Reports

- **President.** JCG gave a president's report highlighting stabilization efforts, including resuming council meetings, transferring accounts, and creating organizational documents. He requested to include a link to the president's report when the agenda is sent. He will begin keeping hybrid office hours on July 10.
- **Secretary.** JH remarked that she looks forward to working with the Council and serving the community. Reporting on behalf of the treasurer, the online auction is nearly ready pending a start and end date from the board. Board members advised starting in September.

Introduction to Change Management

- JH presented two main topics: change management and consensus building. Regarding change management, she emphasized the importance of understanding the five stages of grief when dealing with community reactions to changes. For consensus building, she proposed using a scale from +3 to -3 to gauge support for proposals, focusing on identifying and addressing strong objections.

Sector Reports

- **Education.** JA reported that federal budget cuts amount to 10-20 fewer positions in an average sized school district. A recommendation was made to invite a school board member to present to the Board, perhaps in November.
- **Spiritual Practices.** DO reported an overview of the current state of churches on Vashon Island, noting a significant decline in membership and aging congregations. He explains that most churches, both conservative and progressive, are struggling to maintain their congregations, with membership primarily consisting of people over 50 or even 80 years old. Vashon-Maury also discusses the changing religious landscape on the island, including the addition of Quaker, Jewish, and Buddhist congregations, while highlighting the challenges religious organizations face in terms of community perception and financial sustainability.

Committee Reports

- **Communications Committee.** JH scheduled a first meeting on Thursday July 10 at 7pm on Zoom and at the Vashon-Maury Land Trust.
- **Affordable Housing Committee.** JCG reported that the chairperson, Terry Sullivan, intends to step down and committee members are being contacted.

Old Business

- **Fundraising auction.** JH reported that initial bid for most items has been set to 75% of face value.
- **Approval of V-MCC Introductory Statement.** JCG presented the statement which was then revised after feedback. *Motion (JA), Second (NA), Passed (4 votes for, 0 against, 1 abstention).*
- **Survey to be sent to council members.** JCG expressed a desire for community feedback. He will develop a draft with JH and NA for the board to review. The group decides to keep the survey simple and include questions about board functioning, community priorities, and concerns. They plan to wait until after a few council meetings have taken place before conducting the survey to ensure there is something to evaluate. The discussion then moves to new business, including organizational materials and committee charters.

New Business

- **Approval of organizational packet.** JCG presented a policy regarding committee communications with external entities. The policy allows committees to independently gather information and conduct research without prior board approval, but requires official communications to accurately reflect V-MCC positions. Committee members can express personal opinions to external entities if clearly stated as their own views. While some concerns are raised about potential gray areas, the board generally agrees this approach provides necessary latitude for committees to function effectively while maintaining appropriate guidelines. This matter was postponed to the next meeting of the Board.
- **Approval of organizational packet.**
JC presented the organizational packet, comprising the committee charter template, position description template, several position descriptions, and the Council Meeting Hosting Checklist. Several revisions were suggested and accepted. The Board agreed in passing that they should be referred to as *Board Members* rather than *Directors*. *Motion (JH), second (JA), Approved (unanimous)*
- **Approval to hold July 17 council meeting** *Approved by acclamation*
- **Approval of July 17 Meeting Agenda** *Motion (JCG), Second (NA), Approved (unanimous)*
- **Appointment of JCG as event manager for July 17 Council Meeting** *Motion (NA), Second (DO), Approved (unanimous)*

- **Approval to hold August 21 Council Meeting** *Motion (NA), Second (JH), Approved (unanimous)*
- **Initializing the Technology Watch and Response Advisory Committee** The board discusses the formation of a new Technology Watch and Response Advisory Committee. JCG sent to Board members a revised mission statement that connects to V-MCC's overall mission. *Motion (NA), Second (JH), Approved (unanimous)*. The committee's next steps include drafting a charter and recruiting members.

Public Comments

- Diane Emerson expresses her delight at the Board's progress and hopes it will attract more volunteers and board members.

Next steps

- JCG: Revise and finalize the organizational packet with updated language replacing "evaluation" and "training" with softer terms like "organizational support"
- Jen, Nicole, & JC: Work together to draft a community survey focusing on Council functioning and evaluation, also to include an item on primary concern
- The Board will revisit the draft council policy on committee communications with external entities at the next meeting
- Nicole: Schedule initial meeting for the newly formed Technology Watch and Response Advisory Committee and begin drafting charter
- Jessica: Explore reaching out to either Juniper Rugby or Martha Woodard from the School Board to give a presentation about the superintendent search process at a future Council meeting
- JCG, Jen & Nicole: Send out announcement materials for July 17th Council meeting after July 4th holiday
- JCG: Prepare and sign event manager position description forms with Jen for the July 17th Council meeting
- JCG: Update the introductory statement to remove "representation" from the second clause

Confidential Meeting Evaluation:

1. Are you feeling increasingly confident about the overall performance of the council?
2. Did you feel that you had ample opportunity for input during this meeting?
3. What do you suggest changing - if anything - for future Board of Directors meetings?

Please submit your confidential evaluation to active.deb.vash@gmail.com .

V-MCC President JC Graham can be reached directly at President.V-MCC@proton.me .

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 7, 2025, 6:30 pm (Networking); 7:00 pm (Meeting).



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Introducing The New Vashon-Maury Community Council (V-MCC)

Who We Are:

The new Vashon-Maury Community Council (V-MCC), a 501(c)4 nonprofit, is a nonpartisan platform for residents to engage, collaborate, and advocate for the betterment of Vashon-Maury Island. In the tradition of the island's first community council (established in 1933) and its successors, V-MCC is run entirely by dedicated volunteers.

Our Mission:

V-MCC fosters a sense of belonging, facilitates open dialogue, and empowers residents to shape the island's future. Through proactive engagement and grassroots initiatives, we elevate local concerns and strengthen our community.

What We Do:

- **Community Engagement:** We host regular town halls and public meetings to discuss and address issues such as affordable housing, land use, transportation, social services, environmental protection, and more. We welcome diverse perspectives and encourage active participation from all residents.
- **Advocacy and Representation:** V-MCC serves as the collective voice of the community, advocating for policies and projects that reflect our shared values. We work with local organizations, government agencies, elected officials, and stakeholders to ensure Vashon-Maury's interests are heard and taken into account.

Volunteer-Powered:

As a volunteer-run organization, we invite all residents to get involved—by attending events and meetings, volunteering, and sharing your ideas for the island's future. Truly, we are stronger together.

To learn more or get involved, visit www.v-mcc.org or join us at our next meeting!

