



November 21, 2024

Vashon-Maury Community Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Vashon Presbyterian Church: 17708 Vashon Hwy SW and on Zoom

Meeting called to order 7:01pm by Diane Emerson, President

Board members present: Diane Emerson, Ben Carr, Elena Camarillo, Jessica Anakar, Debra Gussin, Tammy Dye, Steve Nourse, Ann Thorn

Guests: Chris Lampkin, Chief of Staff for Theresa Mosqueda

A quorum was noted, and there was agreement to use Good Faith Voting.

Land Acknowledgment: Ann Thorn

October minutes: There was a request to correct a statement from the meeting that there were 1600 Airbnb's on Vashon. According to Airbnb there are only about 250.

Community Happenings:

- Vashon Eagles will be providing a free Thanksgiving community dinner on 11/28
- Jingle Bash will be at the high school on 11/30 from 11-4
- Vashon HouseHold is having an open house at Island Center Homes from 11-3 on 12/7

Open Discussion:

- Armen Yousoufian proposed a motion rescinding the June 2024 motion regarding Heritage Trail signs, stating the information provided before the vote was not accurate. The motion was seconded. Subsequent discussion pro and con. The motion will be voted on at the next Community Council meeting.
Here is the wording of the motion: This is a resolution rescinding the June 2024 Vashon-Maury Community Council resolution endorsing legislation to exempt heritage trail signs from the King County sign code. Whereas the Vashon Maury Community Council's 29 to 13 vote passed a resolution to "support the efforts of Ellisport and Burton communities to seek exemptions to the King County sign code in order to move forward with their heritage trail projects" was obtained after mistaken and misleading information was presented to the council. Therefore it is resolved that the Vashon-Maury community council's June 2024 resolution to support King County sign code exemptions for heritage trail projects in Ellisport and Burton is rescinded. It is important to set a precedent that Vashon-Maury community council resolutions shown to have been obtained based on inaccurate or misleading information will not be allowed to stand.

- Armen Yousoufian proposed a motion rescinding the motion that was passed at the October 2024 meeting in opposition to ballot measure 2117, claiming that V-MCC should not endorse political issues. The motion was seconded. Ben Carr noted that V-MCC is not a governmental agency so this is not a relevant claim, and moved to postpone Armen's motion indefinitely. Discussion pro and con. Ben's motion passed; the motion has been postponed indefinitely.

New Community Council Board: Sue Gardner, member of the Elections Committee, reports there were 3 election inspectors who validated 181 votes from the total 782 members eligible to vote. All candidates who ran were elected with at least 68% approval. Their 2 year terms begin Dec 1, 2024. The board members will be:

- Jessica Anakar
- Nicole Erica Aine
- Sue Haapakoski
- Dr. Steve Nourse
- Rick Shrum
- Ann Thorn

Diane notes that the new board will need time and support, and urged others to join the board.

VMCC 2025 Budget: Tammy Dye, Treasurer, presented update on 2024 budget and proposed 2025 budget. See below. The 2025 budget was approved 46 to 3.

Proposed Budget for 2025 - as of 10/29/24	Amount	Notes
Operational expenses		
Board insurance	1,226.00	GL renewal in Jul, D&O renewal in Aug
Business license	15.99	
Wix website hosting for 3 years	704.37	Due every third year in Aug
Email associated with website	72.00	
Domain names associated with website	20.00	
Professional Zoom account for board and community mtgs	171.00	
Professional Zoom account for committee meetings	171.00	
Additional Zoom seats for large meetings	250.00	5 at \$50
WA state and IRS form submission	100.00	
Facility rental for large community meetings	500.00	1 at \$300, 4 at \$50
Fundraising costs	100.00	table at farmer's market for ex.
Mail Chimp	540.00	\$45 per month
P.O. Box	232.00	
Election Buddy	396.00	4 surveys at \$99 each
Subtotal operational expenses	4,498.36	
Office materials and supplies		
Brochure design and printing	200.00	
Stamps for mailing	44.00	
Meeting poster printing	100.00	
Subtotal office materials and supplies	344.00	
Special events expenses		
Strawberry Festival booth entrance Chamber of Commerce	225.00	increase b/c Diane is no longer CoC member
Storage unit for awning and tables	396.00	\$33/mo cheapest
Creation of logo items for sale (mugs, etc)	300.00	
Special event flyers	50.00	
Special event posters	70.00	
Special event meeting refreshments	150.00	
Subtotal special events expenses	1,191.00	
Miscellaneous expenditures		
Board leadership online training	100.00	
Subtotal miscellaneous expenditures	100.00	
Overall Expenses 2024	6,133.36	
Revenues from all sources		
King County Alan Painter Grant	-	could apply for this to cover mtg expenses
King County Community Connector Grant	-	
Strawberry festival sales	1,000.00	
Tabling cash donations	100.00	
Board member donations	-	this has historically been \$500-\$2000
Subtotal Revenue from all sources	1,100.00	
2024 carry over balance	6,071.39	
Revenues	1,100.00	
Expenses	6,133.36	
Expected 2025 ending balance	1,038.03	

This is our annual meeting so Diane shared the following annual report for Vashon-Maury Community Council:

Who We Are:

The Vashon-Maury Community Council (V-MCC) serves as a platform for residents to engage, collaborate, and advocate for the betterment of Vashon-Maury Island. First established in 1933, we are a civic organization run entirely by dedicated volunteers.

Our Mission:

At V-MCC, our intent is clear: to foster a sense of belonging, facilitate open dialogue, and empower residents to shape the future of Vashon-Maury Island. Through proactive engagement and grassroots initiatives, we strive to address local concerns.

What We Do:

Community Engagement: We host regular meetings in the form of town halls, to facilitate meaningful discussions on issues ranging from affordable housing, land use planning, transportation, social services and more. We welcome diverse perspectives and encourage active participation from all residents.

Advocacy and Representation: V-MCC serves as a collective voice for the community, advocating for policies and projects that align with our shared values and priorities. We work closely with local government agencies, elected officials, and other stakeholders to ensure that the interests of Vashon-Maury residents are heard and respected.

As President, here are our major accomplishments for 2024:

1. We organized 11 public town hall meetings for the community in 2024. All of them were held as hybrid meetings, to make them as accessible as possible for the community and the public. Our largest meeting had well over 500 attendees.
2. Based on feedback from the community, we adjusted our meetings to enable more people to speak to issues of concern to them, and have fewer presentations from King County, Committee Reports, and presentations from other community organizations. We moved the Open Discussion to the beginning of the meetings, instead of at the end.
3. To help the community better understand the Thunderbird Treatment Center, we prepared a Frequently Asked Questions with answers based on solid documentation, rather than hearsay. And at the September meeting, we budgeted a full hour and a half for community members to share their thoughts, support, and concerns about the Treatment Center. Everyone present had their chance to speak, and did so in a mostly very civil matter. It was a model for how our meetings can be run.
4. That meeting, and nearly every other community meeting is now found on our YouTube Channel. Would someone put the link to our YouTube channel in the chat?
5. Asked King County to provide more opportunities for Vashon Residents to weigh in on the comprehensive plan, and Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda responded with two separate meetings just for Vashon residents.
6. We spotted the public announcement of what will be the largest housing development on the Island, and invited Morgan Brown to speak to it at our October meeting.
7. The board has recently voted to form a new committee: the Island Navigation Network. I will ask Jessica Anakar to give a brief explanation of this committee:
8. In partnership with Vashon Household, our Affordable Housing Committee and talented volunteer Rachel Rome created a separate page on our website to help people understand how to create an Accessory Dwelling Unit on Vashon. Affordable housing is a critical issue on our Island, and this is an area where the Community Council can help a lot to bring people, ideas, and solutions to bear on the problem.

9. Our mailing list and membership lists increased dramatically in 2024. We now have nearly 800 voting members, and well over 1100 people on our mailing list.
10. We voted to send messages to WA state in support of environmental initiatives (which passed), to Puget Sound Energy, to King County on the Comprehensive Plan, and more.
11. We have been careful with our funds, and are going into 2025 with just over \$6000 in cash to cover next year's expenses.
12. We have networked with other community organizations to support their key initiatives and information, especially Vashon Household and the Chamber of Commerce.
13. Our main challenge as an organization continues to be recruiting volunteers and board members. We could do so much more for the community, if we had a full board of 12 people, and key volunteers to take on the website and social media.

Recognition

Our annual meeting is a time to recognize our volunteers. Every single person involved in the community council is a volunteer. Volunteers put in anywhere from 1 to over 20 hours a week to keep this organization humming along, plus studying and responding to the many questions and issues that come up every day. Our hard-working board of directors does most of the work. You know me. But you may not know the others:

1. Ann Thorn – Our most recent board member, who is continuing on for another term.
2. Ben Carr - Board member, and an Assistant Attorney General. Ben has provided very important personal guidance to the board. He is not our organization's attorney. We do not have one contracted. He has also been very helpful with the Puget Sound Energy Activity Advisory Committee, headed by Jenny Bell.
3. Debra Gussin - Vice President and Acting Secretary, and who is also president of the Vashon Food Bank. Debra has provided key guidance on many issues and was Secretary for many months.
4. Diane Emerson – President
5. Elena Camarillo - Board member who has helped a lot with the Strawberry Festival, the Board retreat, the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Event, and inspiration and other support to me as president.
6. Jessica Anakar - Corresponding Secretary, who also is continuing on for another term. Jessica carefully documents our activities, and sends out official notices to King County, Puget Sound Energy, and others as needed. She has also been a stalwart member and the board liaison to the Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion Committee.
7. Dr. Steven Nourse - Board member, and the third board member who is continuing on for another term.
8. Tammy Dye – Treasurer, who has done a superb job organizing and tracking the finances and next year's budget.

Not on the board, but extremely important to the running of the organization is Debby Jackson. She keeps our mailing list and membership databases updated and warmly welcomes all the new members and mailing list requests.

The volunteers who lead our Advisory Committees put in huge amounts of effort on behalf of the community: Kevin Jones, chair of the Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion Committee, Terry Sullivan, chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, Jenny Bell, chair of the Puget Sound Energy Activity Advisory Committee, David Vogel, chair of the Vashon Town Planning Committee, and Justin Hirsch, chair of the Ferry Advisory Committee

There are many more, and all the volunteers are invited to come to a party to celebrate all the work we have done together. On this coming Saturday, November 23, at the Land Trust Building, from 2-4. It's a potluck! Bring your favorite pot luck dish or beverage, but no alcohol, please.

Bylaws and Standing Rules Discussion and Vote: We reviewed the Equity Committee's recommended changes to VMCC Bylaws and Standing rules which were shared at the October meeting after 3 years of outreach, research and revision by the committee. Extensive discussion, which led to a motion to extend the meeting by ½ an hour, which passed. The recommended changes to the Bylaws were approved by a vote of 33 to 4, well in excess of the required 2/3 majority for bylaws changes. There was a motion to indefinitely postpone the vote on the changes to the Standing Rules, which failed 7 to 27. The changes to the Standing Rules were approved 28 to 4. Go [Here](#) to see the Bylaws changes. Go [Here](#) to see the Standing Rules changes.

Community Updates : Pamela Godt, president of Vashon Rotary, reports that the Rotary has voted to do beach clean-up for the Epic Day of Service, May 17, 2025, and encourages everyone to participate. <https://epicdayofservice.org/>

Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Debra Gussin