



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

Vashon-Maury Community Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 21, 2025 (v2)

*20250821 Minutes, Vashon-Maury Community Council (V-MCC), version date: Sept. 4, 2025.
Drafted by jh; provisionally approved by jcg, pending approval by the full Council)
Recording on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HZ9NE40Zvm4>*

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

Our Community Council will be what you make of it.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Networking (30 min.) before the meeting. Please arrive by 6:55 pm.

President: Confirm that Zoom Recording, AI Summarization, and Close Captioning all have been initiated.

Call to Order, *quorum was met with twenty-five council members present.*

Minutes of the Council Meeting were taken by Secretary Jen Hrachovec.

Brief Technical Overview was read by President JC Graham):

- If you are participating remotely, sign on with phone OR computer, not both.
- If you are on Zoom, stay muted unless you are speaking.
- If you have signed on with anything other than your first and last name, please change it on Zoom so we can know who you are.
- For Zoom attendees: Please be advised that questions on chat may not be answered. (If someone wishes to take on the task of speaking for the person chatting, they are welcome to do that.)
- Democratic Rules of Order can be found here: <https://www.democraticrules.com/> (A flow chart and downloadable summary of the rules can be found in the right margin.)
- Please raise your hand to speak to a motion or participate in open discussion, **and lower** your hand after you have been recognized (or no longer wish to speak). When you raise your hand, it may also help if you state in the chat that your hand is raised.

Welcome and Reading of Land Acknowledgment was read by Treasurer Ann Thorn

Rules of Conduct were read by President JC Graham

The Council is committed to conducting its meetings in a civil, respectful, and courteous manner. We expect all participants to demonstrate common courtesy and respect toward fellow Islanders and guests.

As we build our new Council, we are dedicated to creating a safe and healing space to address our shared interests. Rudeness, personal criticism, and ridicule—including in online chat contributions—are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Please keep your remarks focused on the *issues*, not on *individuals*.

We are here because we are stronger together.

- *Hands were shown to demonstrate intent to honor the Rules of Conduct.*

Finalize minutes of *previous* Council meeting: [July 17, 2025](#)

Motion: As above	First: Diane Emerson Second: Jenny Cassel	Votes: 20 for 0 opposed	Passed
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Presentation - No presentation is scheduled for this month. If you would be willing to organize a presentation for future meetings, please contact us at info@v-mcc.org.

Introduction to Rules of Procedure *were read by President JC Graham*

- Only members can vote. If you have recently joined, you will know your membership has been processed if you have received a welcome e-mail from Debby Jackson.
- *Hands were shown for Good Faith Voting.*
- Brief explanation of making motions and amendments.
- Mover's privilege.
- Explanation of Points of Order.

Finalize agenda for *this* Council Meeting: [August 21, 2025](#)

- Presumed

Old Business

- Pending Motions: None.

New Business

See Addendum 1 for information regarding New Business.

New business known in advance:

- Request from the Board for guidance regarding the question to be asked at the September 24 Community Forum

Islanders for Ferry Action have invited V-MCC to participate in a Community Forum featuring Washington State 34th District legislators on Sept. 24th. The event will be held at Vashon Center for the Arts from 6:00 pm to 7:30. Community members are invited to attend. Jessica Anakar has been selected by the council board to represent V-MCC. Each represented organization has been invited to submit a question for consideration.

Motion: Procedure is to determine questions/topic areas then have voting and runoff between top choices	First: Jen Hrachovec Second: Debby Jackson	Votes: 11 for 2 opposed	Passed
	General question: What is the state doing to add support given federal withdrawal of federal funds to food, housing, education, health care, and access to services? How is the legislature protecting LGBTQ+, immigrants, and elections given federal actions?	Votes: First round: 15 for Second round: 15 for	Selected question (may be modified for clarity)

Additional questions	Votes	Discussion Highlights
Solar: What will our legislators do to assure changes to state law to require electric utilities to include private community solar installations in utility billing procedures?	Runner-up 1st round: 3 for 2nd round: 3 for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legislation in question would require utilities to recognize private solar installations that serve more than the needs of the homeowner as community solar projects, ensuring subscribers receive financial benefits for power generated The proposal does not affect permitting or zoning processes, which would remain at the county level The discussion highlighted concerns about the environmental impact of solar panels and the potential for public review during permitting
Housing: What is being done to regulate short term rentals (AirBnB, VRBO) to encourage long-term rental?	1st round: 1 for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of short-term rentals may be in the 100's At the last homeless count there were 175 people

Additional questions	Votes	Discussion Highlights
What can be done on Vashon Island for shelter for the homeless at night when there is extreme weather (hot or cold)?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vashon has no services at night • Housing action may be under the jurisdiction of King County rather than WA state
Utilities: What can the legislature do to assure effective community input on actions by utilities?	1st round: 1 for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WUTC regulates utilities • Commission declined to uphold responsibilities when asked to support public input
Healthcare: In view of federal cuts, does the legislature have a way of assisting people who are being removed from Medicaid?	1st round: 0 for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of federal cuts on health care would likely be represented by other groups • This topic was incorporated into general question
Ferries	Withdrawn from voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generator is needed at the Tahlequah ferry terminal to ensure operations during power outage • Council members requested that the Vashon Island Ferry Advocacy Committee and Vashon Household be invited to attend the legislative forum to ask their own questions

- Motion to urge King County to adopt certain Vashon-Maury-related components of the King County Climate Action plan:

The Council discussed a resolution to add inputs to climate action items in King County's proposed [2025 Strategic Climate Action Plan](#). The action plan was made public around June 2025 and the King County Council is expected to vote on it as soon as September on a date not yet determined. Kevin presented the motion (see below).

The council discussed a complex climate action plan that requires voting on multiple propositions without detailed information, leading to concerns about voter understanding as well as potential impacts on equity and low-income residents. The council also expressed concerns about the urgency of the timeline to include inputs for consideration by King County. Kevin clarified that the proposed inputs would undergo future evaluation by King County. Discussion included the need to clarify definitions and wording for certain items. The council agreed to post detailed information about the

climate plan written by the Vashon-Maury Climate Action Plan Group and to review and potentially amend the resolution before voting on the motion in September.

Motion: “Addressing the climate crisis is an important priority for Vashon-Maury Islanders. The Vashon-Maury Community Council therefore moves that the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (KC SCAP) include these actions in the final KC SCAP:

1. Work with state agencies to incentivize Washington State Ferry commuters to use more climate friendly transportation options through fares and priority loading procedures.
2. Electrify the Seattle/Vashon route water taxis.
3. Advocate for policies that support development of private community solar installations, extend net-metering of rooftop solar, expedite rooftop solar building permits and limit property tax increases due to solar system installation.
4. Reduce wildfire risk by encouraging electric utilities to expedite under-grounding or on-grounding of electric power lines.
5. Implement the Metro Flex on-demand transit service on Vashon-Maury islands.
6. Include programs that advance the production and use of biochar.
7. Expand energy audit programs to improve building weatherization and programs that incentivize installation of electric heat pumps for space and water heating.
8. Extend programs that incentivize switching to electric appliances to community-based and faith-based organizations.
9. Develop programs that integrate home electric batteries with the power grid.
10. Build local organic recycling facilities throughout the county.
11. Incentivize reforesting all land deemed not suitable for large-scale community solar installations.
12. Include water management programs like water conservation rebates, low water use laundry and dishwasher incentives, and soil amendment programs to increase groundwater retention.
13. Include virtual power plants as a “future-ready infrastructure” option, conduct a Vashon- Maury Battery Energy Storage Systems siting analysis, and assess installation of a 1 MW solar array at the Vashon Transfer Station.

Finally, the KC SCAP must include a clearly defined list of actions and their individual greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction objectives which, together, fully achieve the SCAP goal of a 95% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050.”

First: Kevin Jones

Second: Kathleen Fitch

Council by-laws require voting to occur at a future meeting to allow a forum for discussion.

Motion: Hold special meeting to	First: Nicole Aine Second: Mike	Votes: 8 for	Passed
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discuss inputs to KC Climate Action Plan in 12 days		6 opposed	
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Community Input and Questions (the floor will be open for input, questions, and discussion as time allows)

Announcements

Adjourn at 9:05pm

Motion: as above	First: Nicole Aine Second: Mike	Votes: 13 for 1 opposed	Passed
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Next Regular Council Meeting: Thursday, September 18, 2025, 6:30 pm (Networking); 7:00 pm (Meeting).

Board of Directors Meetings are regularly held on first Thursdays, at the Land Trust Building.

- Guests are welcome to observe (either in person or via Zoom at the above link.)
- The next V-MCC Board meeting will be held on September 4, 2025.

General questions may be sent to info@v-mcc.org

V-MCC Secretary Jen Hrachovec can be reached directly at Secretary.V-MCC@proton.me.

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

2025 Vashon-Maury Community Council Motions

Motion	Requestors	Date Opened	Date Closed	Status
Addressing the climate crisis is an important priority for Vashon-Maury Islanders. The Vashon-Maury Community Council therefore moves that the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan include these actions in the final KC SCAP (see 8/21/2025 minutes for list of 13 recommendations)	1-Kevin Jones 2-Kathleen Fitch	Aug 21, 2025		Pending (future...)
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.'	1-Armin Yousefian 2-Not recorded	Nov 21, 2024	Jun 19, 2025	Not Passed

Addendum 1. Information Regarding New Business.

- Motions may be made from the floor during this time. A substantive motion is a formal proposal put before the Council that directly addresses the reasons for which our Council exists.¹ Unless intermediate action is needed², any substantive motions that are moved and seconded—unless postponed indefinitely—will be further considered and voted upon at the next Council meeting. However, routine procedural and operational motions do not automatically require a month's delay.
- Making a substantive motion (to be decided by majority rule) - or to amend, table, rescind, or postpone a motion - is *not* the only action you can take during New Business! Here are some other options:
 - Move to discuss a certain topic for a set period of time.
 - Move to seek Council consensus on a certain subject, for a set period of time.
 - Ask that a straw poll (a nonbinding record of support and opposition) be taken on a certain subject.
- There also are other possibilities for procedural motions that *will* be decided by a majority vote:
 - Request an informational presentation or written update from a committee, officer, or guest expert.
 - Move that someone (a V-MCC committee, the V-MCC Board, or someone else) be asked to investigate a certain matter and report back to the Council (either at a later date or when they are ready).
 - Move to refer an issue to an existing committee for consideration and report back.
 - Move that a certain advisory committee be formed. Ideally you will have a draft mission statement ready and at least an interim committee chair in mind. Advisory committees may be either Standing (ongoing) or Ad Hoc (temporary).
 - Move that a certain person or group be requested to address the Council. (Ideally you will also indicate a contact person or who is expected to issue the request.)
 - Move that someone (or a group) be recognized for some outstanding contribution or achievement.
 - Propose scheduling a special meeting or community forum on a specific issue.
- In formulating your substantive motion, please consider the following questions from the *GARE³ Toolkit*:
 - **Proposal:** What is the policy, program, practice or budget decision under consideration? What are the desired results and outcomes?
 - **Data:** What's the data? What does the data tell us?
 - **Community engagement:** How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?
 - **Analysis and strategies:** Who will benefit from or be burdened by your proposal? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?
 - **Implementation:** What is your plan for implementation?
 - **Accountability and communication:** How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

A guided consideration of these questions may be found at

https://belonging.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/gare-racial_equity_toolkit.pdf

¹ These are matters such as lobbying for a certain policy change or governmental action) or amendments to V-MCC's Bylaws or Standing Rules.

² For example Board approval, in the case of Bylaws amendments.

³ GARE is the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.