



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

Vashon-Maury Community Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 17, 2025

Version date: August 11, 2025 (v4)

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

(In-person is by reservation only. An RSVP request is sent out with the meeting announcement.)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85288946985?pwd=Af13LasNi8YjbGD5atjRPfsZ69A7UR.1>

Meeting ID: 852 8894 6985

Passcode: 853406

One tap mobile

+12532158782 with ID#: 85288946985#

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

Call to Order, roll call for quorum (*twenty-five council members minimum*).

A quorum of 25 Council members present was attained.

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

Brief Technical Overview (for Zoom and In-Person Meeting Attendees):

- 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 – *President JC Graham*

Rules of Conduct (*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.

➤ *Show of hands to demonstrate intent to honor the Rules of Conduct* was completed.

Finalize minutes of *previous* Council Meeting: November 21, 2024

Motion: As above	First: Dane Emerson Second: Jenny Cassel	Votes: 19 for 0 against	Passed
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Finalize agenda for *this* Council Meeting: July 17, 2025

Motion: As above	First: Ann Thorn Second: David Vogel	Votes: 20 for 0 against	Passed
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Elections

➤ **Confirmation of Jen Hrachovec as a Director.**

Motion: As above	First: Art Chippendale Second: Jenny Cassell	Votes: 20 for 0 against	Passed
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➤ Confirmation of the Board’s slate of officers:

- ❖ President: *JC Graham*
- ❖ Vice-President: *Nicole Erica Áine*
- ❖ Treasurer: *Ann Thorn*
- ❖ Corresponding Secretary: *Jessica Anakar*
- ❖ Secretary: *Jen Hrachovec*

Motion: As above	First: Diane Emerson Second: Jenny Cassell	Votes: 20 for 0 against	Passed
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Treasurer's Report (Ann Thorn)

- Current balance of funds is \$4866
- Expenses are on track with the 2025 approved budget. Expenses include Mail Chimp, Zoom, Election buddy, and insurance.
- Revenue sources in the past include a grant from King County to help complete a community needs assessment survey, and donations.
- Auction is planned to start in the fall and will feature the "Vashon experience"
- Strawberry Festival is a good way to meet, engage, and sign people up. There was not enough bandwidth to do it this year.

Introduction to Rules of Procedure (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.
- *Show of hands for Good Faith Voting.*
- Brief explanation of making motions and amendments.
- Mover's privilege.
- Explanation of Points of Order.

Old Business

➤ Pending Motions:

At the November 21, 2024 council meeting, Armen Yousoufian proposed a motion rescinding the June 2024 motion regarding Heritage Trail signs. 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.'**

Clarification of the motion

- The motion in question is to rescind the June 2024 V-MCC resolution endorsing legislation to exempt heritage trail signs from the King County Sign Code.
- The rationale behind the motion is that the original resolution was passed based on "mistaken and misleading information".
- The King County Council has already passed that resolution to amend the comprehensive code to allow heritage trail signs on all of Vashon. Heritage signs have been installed in Ellisport.

Comments in support:

- Armen Yousoufian submitted a comment which was read in the meeting: "Due to various circumstances, I will not be at the meeting tonight. Regarding my November

motion, after an eight-month delay, as I said at the last board meeting, "Justice delayed is justice denied." The point remains that the community council has allowed itself to be used by others to pursue their own agendas without adequate vetting or meaningful/balanced/fair opportunity for inquiries to be answered and views put forward to be rebutted. The Council has tended to become an exploitable tool, and it does not represent the larger community. It should avoid allowing such motions in the first place versus being a source of information for the community."

Comments in opposition:

- It was argued that there was no evidence presented to support the claim of mistaken or misleading information.
- A council member expressed concern about setting a precedent of rescinding resolutions without proof of inaccurate information.
- A point was raised about the legal process involved in accusing someone of presenting incorrect information, emphasizing that both sides should have the opportunity to present evidence.

Deciding factors:

- No evidence of misinformation to support the motion from November 21, 2024 was presented tonight or known by those in attendance, and there were no speakers in support of the present motion. Since the signage exemption already was adopted as part of the King County Comprehensive Plan, and the signs in Ellisport have been installed, the motion to rescind the June 2024 Council meeting was considered moot.

Motion: As above	First and second at 11/21/2024 meeting	Votes: 0 for 18 against	Not approved
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New Business

- Motions may be made from the floor during this time. Any motions that are moved and seconded—unless postponed indefinitely—will be further considered and voted upon at the next Council meeting.

Ferry Council Advisory Committee

- Justin Hirsch raised the issue of replacing the vacant position on the Ferry Advisory Committee.
- It was clarified that the V-MCC has the authority to appoint the person to the committee without King Council’s approval.
- The Vashon Ferry Advisory Committee is scheduled for the following Wednesday.

Community Input and Questions (the floor will be open for comments as time allows)

You may wish to address the following questions (suggested by Bernie O'Malley, *Mayor 2016*):

- What did you like/appreciate in the previous 25 years of a Community Council? (If nothing, that’s a valid answer. Please tell us why.)

- What do you want our *current* Community Council to achieve for you, your family, and our island? (If nothing, please tell us *why not?*)
- If you are interested in the work of the Council, how do you want to know what we're doing: The Beachcomber, The Loop, social media (*which?*), posters around town, in other ways?

Discussion summary. The following opinions were expressed by those in attendance:

- **Access.** A speaker reported she had difficulty logging on to the Zoom meeting, it was recommended that the zoom information be made readily available in the initial email.
- **Purpose of the council**
 - The council should be a forum, not a governance body, to increase participation.
 - Reframe the meeting style and purpose to broaden appeal, suggesting a focus on community concerns and town hall discussions.
 - The council can provide a platform for discussing important issues without needing binding votes.
- **Importance of community engagement**
 - The council's authority is based on its perceived influence and ability to work with King County, acting as a conduit for information.
 - Elected representatives can hear diverse opinions at V-MCC meetings, which is valuable for their decision-making. King County officials have reported that they find input from the Community Council more impactful than individual concerns.
 - The Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion Committee conducted outreach to improve community connection with the council, with suggestions now in V-MCC Bylaws.
- **Island concerns**
 - **Affordability.** Concerns about the future include affordable housing, zoning changes imposed by King County, inflation (including food).
 - The goal is to make the community more **self-sufficient** and less dependent on King County.
 - **Social justice** for immigrants, referencing historical events to highlight potential dangers, with examples of naturalized citizens facing issues.
 - **Climate.** A group has been working with King County on their updated climate action plan. The Vashon United Methodist Church is collaborating to create a climate resilience hub and is included as a pilot in the King County Climate Action Plan.
 - **Representation in King County planning** The paving over of the parking across from the post office was brought up as an example of something the Council could have discussed with King County.
- **Fulfillment from Community Involvement**
 - Volunteering for community service keeps a community safe, thriving, and healthy, benefitting future generations.
 - There is opportunity, by volunteering, to work with great teams, meet new people, and learn about your community.
 - Participation combats isolation, fosters connection, and allows individuals to shape the future together.
- **Encouraging Participation**
 - The Board should focus on strategic decisions, guidance, and administrative tasks, while other council members and volunteers handle committees, events, and presentations.

- The council should be *participatory*, seeking not just topics but also structures for involvement. Members should be encouraged to join committees to share the workload and take ownership of the Council’s work.
- The goal is to avoid the perception that the Board is solely responsible for all the work, and to empower the council to take action.

Adjourn

Motion: As above	First: Ann Thorn Second: David	Votes: By acclamation 0 opposed	Passed
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Next Council Meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2025, 6:30 pm (Networking); 7:00 pm (Meeting).

Board of Directors Meetings are regularly held on first Thursdays, at the Land Trust Building. The next one will be on August 7, 2025.

- Guests are welcome to observe (either in person or via Zoom.)

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

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

Appendix 1

In formulating your motion, please consider the following questions from the *GARE*¹ *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 GARE is the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.

Appendix 2: List of 2025 motions

Date	Motion	Decision	Action items	Status
7/17/2025	<p>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.'</p>	Not approved	None	Closed