



Vashon-Maury Community Council Meeting 8.17.23

Meeting called to order at 7:06 by Diane Emerson

Board Members present: Diane Emerson; John Affolter, Debra Gussin, Ben Carr. Jessica Anakar (via zoom)

Minutes of the 7/20/23 meeting were approved.

Zoom recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/4sX1w68FGMItdtEq19ThBi8l22nza9EQ4Bu_SsvlUmC9NV58FsEVjNkQ3N6zS4P.lpXBirbUj8WFVDqg

Passcode: @ec@E50

After a couple of months, this recording will be moved to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@vashon-maurycommunity3890>

Guests: John Taylor, Alex Bruell – new editor of the Beachcomber (via zoom)
Sgt. Whitacre (zoom)

- John Taylor
 - KC Department of Local Services was established to support unincorporated King County. John shared examples of services to support local communities.
 - He encouraged people to take the survey to inform community needs list to prioritize KC budget.
 - Jeff Schnelz presented John with a chunk of asphalt from SW 204th St. that is representative of the deteriorating roads on Vashon. He has sent multiple communications to the county to request assistance.
 - Doug Hoffman asked a question re: use of recycled asphalt. John declined to answer due to ongoing litigation.
 - Victoria Alessandro shared concerns of people living near Center Forest. John referred to KC Homelessness Services. Victoria states they have already called them. John emphasized that if anyone is behaving in a disruptive or threatening manner, people should call 911. Nicole Alessandro said they have tried calling 911 but nothing happens.
 - Armen said that Jim Chan from KC made what he believed to be negative comments about Doug Hoffman at our last council meeting. John said he was not aware of those comments but will review to make sure KC representatives are courteous to community members. Diane Emerson will look up the meeting and send the link to John Taylor so he can review it.



- Lynn said that she and others who live at Roseballen are concerned that people are using the area for dumping garbage.
- Sgt. Kirsten Whitacre: Supervisor for our patrol units. He has been on patrol on Vashon in the past. We have 2 deputies on island 24/7. He encourages people to call 911 with any safety issues.
 - Tanya Takaki says she grew up on Vashon, and is caring for a person who is experiencing homelessness on the island. She is happy to talk with people about the situation and to brainstorm ideas.
 - Art Chippendale commented on the complexity of homelessness – the many factors that contribute to the situation and the barriers faced by people who are unhoused. He said our community needs to come together to help solve problems, including advocating for better access to services and support that other areas of KC have.
 - John Osborne (OZ) raised concerns re: motorcycles going very high speeds down the highway, and seemingly no enforcement of the speed limit. Sgt. Whitacre says there has been an increase in motorcycle speeding across the county, as well as speeding overall. He will ask our deputies to monitor speeds and issue warnings.
- At this point, it was moved and approved to extend the meeting if necessary to allow more discussion.
 - Katherine Kang mentioned several break-ins in town in the last few weeks. She wondered if deputies could have a more visible presence. Sgt. W says he expects deputies to be engaged and visible and will reiterate that message.
 - Amy Drayer, Director Vashon Chamber of Commerce, noted that there was another break-in just last night, making 5 this week. She hopes to be able to work with the Sheriff's Office to keep businesses safe. Sgt. W said that besides our detectives we have KC detectives working on Vashon and other areas. He encourages people to consider using Ring or other monitoring systems.
 - Terry Sullivan, member of Equity/Social Justice/Inclusion and Affordable Housing Committees, is troubled by the concerns raised at Roseballen, but also notes that many people who are unhoused have unmet social service needs and encourages us to respond with compassion and respect.
 - Evy Horton, also on the Affordable Housing Committee, suggests that deputies get out of their cars and walk around, talk with people and introduce themselves. Sgt W. agrees with this approach.
 - Ben Carr mentioned that people were camping on his property recently and he appreciated the support of the Interfaith Council to assist people, vs criminalizing. He suggests we invite KC Regional Homelessness Authority to one of our meetings to find out what they can do for our community. Diane Emerson will invite them.



- Tanya Takaki is starting a non-profit to support people on Vashon who need help with housing – Integrity Collective of Compassionate Islanders (ICCI). John Taylor handed out her document to those at the meeting. For Zoom attendees, one can see the document [here](#).
- Mike Lasecki – KC Wildfire Preparedness Program Coordinator. Mike shared a [presentation](#) that described the conditions that generate wildfires – weather, topography and climate. We are at high risk of wildfires on Vashon this year through October. The reasons we haven't seen more fires so far are rapid response to contain small fires before they grow and the fact that weather has been hot at times but not windy. We need to be vigilant and careful, especially when there is wind. Mitigation tactics include: hardening buildings, eliminating vegetation around buildings, and everyone participating to avoid structure to structure ignition. Also important to have evacuation plans for worst-case scenarios. Mike would be happy to help Vashon residents to assess their property and make recommendations to improve fire safety. Michael.lasecki@kingcd.org
 - Art Chippendale notes there is a lot of invasive ivy on the island which will kill trees and increase fire risk. Can KC help with that as preventive measure? Mike said KC Conservation District can come out to advise but property owners will need to actually do any necessary removal and clean up.
 - David Vogel asked if KCCD has worked with Vashon Be prepared. Mike said he is interested in connecting with them.
- Committee Updates
 - Affordable Housing Committee: Diane reports that Morgan Brown is stepping down and we are seeking a new chair. There is a fundraiser for Vashon Household 8/19/23 at Dig Deep.
 - Equity Social Justice and Inclusion Committee: Jessica reports they are working on community outreach and organizing the 9/21 candidate forum.
 - Ferry Advisory Committee: Justin Hirsch reports the next meeting is 8/28 at 7pm at the Land Trust Bldg. Topics include: Service Restoration Plan, ghost boats, lights at north end ferry dock and work on the Fauntleroy dock.
 - Transportation Committee: Jake Jakobovich (interim chair) reports that the committee is looking for more members to work on pedestrian/bike/equestrian pathways, road access, capital improvements and transit, including bus, water taxis and paratransit.
- Board Updates: Diane reminded everyone that we need more board members to continue the work of the Community Council.
- Candidates Forum will be our next meeting, 9/21, 7-9pm at the Presbyterian Church. Amy Drayer from the Chamber of Commerce will facilitate.
- Vashon Rotary is sponsoring a fundraiser for hunger relief.
- Reminder that school is starting soon and we should all be watchful of children in and near the roads.



Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Minutes submitted by D. Gussin, Vice President