



Vashon-Maury Community Council
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Vashon-Maury Community Council Meeting, Minutes Thursday, August 20, 2026 7-9 p.m.

20260820 Minutes, V-MCC Council; version date September 1, 2026 (v1)
Vashon Land Trust 10014 SW Bank Rd or Join by Zoom

Resources: [V-MCC Bylaws](#); [V-MCC Standing Rules](#) (both as revised November 21, 2024)
[Democratic Rules of Order](#)

*Doors open at 6:30 pm. **Social Mixer** (30 min.) before the meeting.*

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

Request volunteer *Zoom-Monitor* for this meeting.
Request volunteer *Clean Up Captain* for this meeting.

President: This meeting is being videorecorded and will be publically available on V-MCC's YouTube channel.

~~7:00 (10 min.) **Candidate Introductions**~~

- ~~➤ **Harry Steinmetz** (King County District Court, Southwest Division, Position 4)~~
- ~~➤ **Noel Merfeld** (King County District Court, Southwest Division, Position 5)~~

[Brief Technical Overview](#) (for Zoom and In-Person Meeting Attendees)

Only members can vote. We practice good faith voting, meaning that you are trusted to vote (and make motions, second motions, and make amendments) *only* if you are a V-MCC member.

Call to Order, determination of quorum (*twenty-five voting council members minimum*) If you have recently joined, you will know your membership has been processed if you have received a welcome e-mail from Debby Jackson.

- 25 members in attendance
- Board attendees: JC Graham, Kavi Rana, Jen Hrachovec, Jessica Anakar, Ike Harmon

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



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Counting of votes will be done by Jen Hrachovec and JC Graham

Welcome, Reading of Land Acknowledgment (*Sue Letsinger*)

Rules of Conduct (*President JC Graham*)

Finalize minutes of *previous* Council meetings [July 16, 2026](#)

1st: Jeff Thompson, 2nd: Jen Hrachovec

Motion to amend minutes that 40 minutes were promised to this meeting's presenters opposing proposed expansion of the Marine Recovery Area

1st: Armin Yousoufian, 2nd: Peter Jacobs, For: 2, Opposed: 9, **Not passed**

Vote to approve minutes: For: 15, Opposed: 9, **Passed**

Finalize agenda for *this* Council Meeting: [August 20, 2026](#)

1st: Diane Emerson, 2nd: Jeff Thompson, For: 16, Opposed: 0, **Passed**

Island Partner Organization Update

➤ **Jennifer Potter** ([Heights Grocery](#)) - [.pdf](#)

23-year resident of Vashon Island. Parent of Henry and Chloe Sutherland, now 19 and 17.

Owned and refurbished the iconic JesusBarn house and property.

Held the title of Unofficial Mayor and acted as event manager for Chamber of Commerce.

Produces and performs for community events in support of multiple island non-profits.

Approached the Grange in 2018 regarding the hall's use and condition.

Purchased the building in 2021. Rezoned during Comprehensive Plan for adaptive reuse as neighborhood market and coffee shop. Awarded Historic Landmark designation in 2025. Achieved Certificate of Appropriateness for proposed alterations to the hall by King County Landmark Commission.



Continuously offers the building and property to rent for special events, non-profit meetings, children's theater camps, and a variety of classes from meditation to line dancing.

Awarded and applying for grants via 4Culture for stabilization/preservation of building.

Recently launched a community fundraising campaign

➤ **Brandon Letsinger** ([Regenerate Vashon Island](#)) .pdf

Brandon Letsinger is a [bioregional](#) organizer and an initiating team member of [Regenerate Vashon Island](#). He co-administers [Regenerate Cascadia](#), a nonprofit initiative building regenerative capacity and networking across the [Cascadia Bioregion](#) and serves as Executive Director of the [Department of Bioregion](#), a 501(c)(3) organization. Brandon founded [CascadiaNow!](#) in 2004 and has helped launch and lead place-based organizations and projects for more than two decades. Brandon is also a core organizer of the [eleventh Turtle Island Bioregional Congress](#), convening in Vernonia, Oregon, September 15-19, 2006.

[Introduction to Rules of Procedure](#) (President JC Graham)

Old Business

➤ [Proposed Expansion of the Marine Recovery Area](#) .ppt .pdf

Motion: Add to September V-MCC Meeting Agenda

1st: Jeff Thompson, 2nd: John Browne, For: 14, Opposed: 1, **Passed**

Motion: Extend today's meeting

1st: Armen Yousoufian, 2nd: Nicole Aine, For: 4, Opposed: 16, **Not passed**

“What’s on My Mind” and New Business

➤ [Proposal to Prohibit Residential Yard Waste Burning in Areas Outside of UGAs](#)
(Puget Sound Clear Air Agency)

Motion: Ban yard waste burning

1st: Sue Letzinger, 2nd: Rick Shrum, For: 12, Opposed: 0, **Passed**

Community Input and Questions (as time allows)

The floor will be open for input, questions, and discussion.



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Announcements

- General announcements that may be of interest to the Council are welcomed.
- USPS sent a survey about post office boxes in Burton
- September 2nd meeting for Grandpa's Garage (recycled building materials) at the Land Trust Building

Adjourn

1st: Jeff Thompson, 2nd: <unknown>, **Passed** by acclamation

Next Regular Council Meeting: Thursday September 17, 2026, 6:30 pm (Social Mixer); 7:00 pm (Meeting). Location: **Vashon Land Trust**, 10014 SW Bank Rd.

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

- The next V-MCC Board meeting will be held on September 3, 2026.
- Guests are welcome to observe (either in person or via Zoom; see v-mcc.org/event)

Information

- General questions may be sent to info@v-mcc.org
- *If you have questions or ideas about the V-MCC Sectors, please contact the relevant sector liaisons* (See Addendum 2. V-MCC Sectors and Liaisons)
- V-MCC Secretary Jen Hrachovec can be reached directly at Secretary@v-mcc.org
- V-MCC President JC Graham can be reached directly at President@v-mcc.org.

Thank you for your participation, and we'd love to hear from you!



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Substantive 2025-6 Vashon-Maury Community Council Motions (Passed and Pending)

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	1-Kevin Jones 2-Kathleen Fitch	Aug 21, 2...	Sep 3, 2025	Passed ▾
Appoint Gary English to Vashon Ferry Committee	1-Mike Dawson 2-Art Chippendale	Sep 5, 2024	Oct 16, 20...	Passed ▾
Letter of Support to install community solar at Vashon High School to provide electricity production and battery storage for disaster preparedness	1-Eric Walker 2-Laura Cerven, Julie Brown, Mike	Oct 16, 2025	Oct 16, 20...	Passed ▾
2026-01 Motion to Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Establishment of the Vashon Island Disaster Airlift Response Team (ViDART)	1-Truman O'Brien 2-Kathy Ostrom and Jackie O'Malley	Nov 20, 2...	Jan 15, 20...	Passed ▾
2026-02 Letter Regarding Automated Surveillance	1-Nicole Erica Aine 2-Kevin Jones, Evan Simmons	Jan 15, 20...	Feb 19, 2...	Passed ▾
2026-03 Bar Illegal Deportation Flights Through King County International Airport (Postponed to April 2026 meeting)	1-Julie Brown 2-Mike Dawson, Ike Harman	Jan 15, 20...	Apr 16, 20...	Postp... ▾
2026-04 Protecting Marine Mammals	1-Joe Yarkin 2-Kavi Rana	Feb 19, 2...	Mar 19, 2...	Passed ▾



2026-05 Advocating for Safe, Renewable Energy	1-Kevin Jones 2-Mike Dawson	Feb 19, 2...	Apr 16, 20...	Passed ▾
2026-06 Council to discuss the unauthorized use of the V-MCC email list. Remove Nicole Aine from Board of Directors	1-Ike Harmon 2-Diane Emerson 1-Ike Harmon 2-Mike Dawson	Apr 16, 2026 May 21, 2...	Jun 18, 20...	Passed ▾
2026-07 Write and send Letter of support for grant application for the Department of Natural Resources	1-Mike Dawson 2-Kevin Jones	May 21, 2...	May 21, 2...	Passed ▾
2026-08		📅 Date	📅 Date	Pendi... ▾

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

- “Let us use contemporary technology to our full advantage. If you are participating in person, it is perfectly acceptable to have your phone or other device open during the meeting. This can be especially helpful if you have difficulty hearing (you may log into Zoom for audio, using earbuds or a headset at your preferred volume) or difficulty seeing the display screen (you may open the agenda link and zoom in on the document). You are also welcome to use your phone to look up relevant information during our discussions.
- *Democratic Rules of Order* summary and flowchart can be found here: <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=148489> (*The 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).
- The first time you are recognized to speak, please identify yourself by name.

For Zoom attendees:

- If you have signed on with anything other than your first and last name, please change it so we can know who you are.
- If you are participating remotely, sign on with phone OR computer, not both.
- Stay muted on Zoom unless you are speaking.



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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.)

Rules of Conduct

- 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 continue to 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*.
- Please ensure that everyone has had a chance to speak before you ask to speak again.
- *Show of hands to demonstrate intent to honor Good Faith Voting and the Rules of Conduct.*

Thank you. We are here because we are stronger together.

Introduction to Rules of Procedure

- Brief explanation of making motions and amendments. (See *Want to Advocate for Change? Make a Motion in the V-MCC*)

Explanation of Points of Order and “Points of Information”

“What’s on My Mind” and New Business

- As time allows, motions may be made from the floor.
- Please note that according to the [V-MCC Bylaws](#) (Article II, Section 2): *The Council shall focus primarily on concrete logistical issues that affect Islanders, such as housing, building codes and zoning, local environmental issues, drinking water, public safety, crime prevention, transportation issues, the flora and fauna of the Island, etc. The Council may also consider social, regulatory and legislative issues affecting Islanders.*

See Addendum 1: *Want to Advocate for Change? [Make a Motion in the V-MCC \(v3\)](#)*



Want to Advocate for Change?

Make a Motion in the V-MCC

Revision date: February 6, 2026 (v3)

See also: [Democratic Rules of Order](#) (summary of the rules and flowchart)

Who can make a motion?

- Only Council members may *move or second motions, propose amendments, and raise points of order*, in accordance with the Democratic Rules of Order, 10th Edition, and [Article III, V-MCC Bylaws](#).
- Guests, if recognized by the chair, may raise an informal “*point of information*” solely for the purpose of clarification. Guests *may* participate in the discussion, at the discretion of the chair.

When do I make a motion?

- Motions may be made from the floor during New Business.

How do I make a substantive motion?

- A substantive motion is a formal proposal put before the Council that directly addresses the reasons for which our Council exists, such as taking collective action, lobbying for a certain policy change or governmental action, or amending V-MCC’s [Bylaws](#) or [Standing Rules](#).
- At the initial Council meeting, you will “read the motion into the record” by briefly stating its purpose and responding to any clarifying questions. It is not necessary to read the entire motion aloud, though you may do so if time permits. Discussion at this stage will be limited.
- Please give a copy to the V-MCC Secretary (Secretary.v-mcc@proton.me) before or during the meeting.
- If you wish—and capacity allows—a Council Liaison can be assigned to support you in drafting the motion (if needed) and guiding it through the V-MCC process.



When does the Council vote on my substantive motion?

- If the motion receives a second, it will be placed on the agenda as an Old Business item at the next regular Council meeting, where it will be discussed and voted on (unless postponed). You do not need to move the motion again at that subsequent meeting.
- If immediate action is required, substantive motions may be adopted at the same meeting at which they are proposed only if allowed by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of both the Council and a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Board members present.

What can I make a substantive motion about?

- **Article II, Section 2 (Focus) of the [V-MCC Bylaws](#):**
 - This Council shall limit the issues brought to it to those that affect the community. It shall avoid private concerns unless they have broad community implications.
 - The Council shall focus primarily on concrete logistical issues that affect Islanders, such as housing, building codes and zoning, local environmental issues, drinking water, public safety, crime prevention, transportation issues, the flora and fauna of the Island, etc. The Council may also consider social, regulatory and legislative issues affecting Islanders.
 - The Council shall avoid partisan political activity that supports or opposes individuals for public office. It shall strive to encourage Islanders of different ideologies and persuasions to work together toward community improvement.
 - The Council may promote networking between community groups to facilitate Island collaboration.
- Motions that are purely partisan statements, statements of philosophy, or manifestos are not in order.

How do I word the substantive motion?

Motions should be:

- *Worded affirmatively and must not conflict with any higher law* (applicable laws of the land, the V-MCC Bylaws, or existing V-MCC Standing Rules).
- *Within V-MCC's jurisdiction* (they must propose actions the Council can legitimately take).
- *Germane* (they must be directly relevant to Vashon-Maury Island and its inhabitants).
- *Efficacious* (if adopted, they should have a reasonable chance of producing a substantive effect in the real world, rather than being purely symbolic or rhetorical).

How do I assure the motion is equitable?



- Please consider the following questions from the *GARE Toolkit* (see guide [here](#)):
 - **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

Can I get help formulating a motion?

- If you are unsure whether your idea is best presented as a motion, a request for information, or a proposal to refer an issue to a committee, you are encouraged to consult the President or a Board member in advance of the meeting.

How else can I urge the Council to address a topic?

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.

These routine procedural and operational motions are typically voted on at the same meeting.

Addendum 2. V-MCC Sectors and Liaisons (v12)

August 18, 2026

1. Diversity and Inclusion, Inclusion@v-mcc.org (Asian, BIPOC, Indigenous, Latino/Latina, race / racial equity, mixed race families, language barriers / diverse language speakers, LGBTQIA+, disabled, immigrants)

Board Support: Kavi Rana

Liaison: **Liaison: Vacant**

2. Quality of Existence, Quality@v-mcc.org (Affordable housing / homeless / unhoused, renters, landlords, wellness (healthy habits / food / activities), safety, Low income, Income inequality)

Board Support: Jen Hrachovec

Liaisons: Kavi Rana (*healthy habits / food / activities*), Jeff Thompson (*poverty, well being*)

3. Business and Workforce, Economy@v-mcc.org (Workforce training, service industry workers / laborers / employees)

Board Support: Kavi Rana

Liaison: Jack Robinson-D'Amore

4. Culture, Art, History and Recreation, Culture@v-mcc.org

Board Support: Ann Thorn

Liaisons: Meg Thompson (theater), Ike Harmon (music), **Vacant (specific areas of focus)**



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5. Education, Education@v-mcc.org

Board Support: Jen Hrachovec

Liaisons: Jessica Anakar

6. Environment, Environment@v-mcc.org (clean water / air / ground, land sustainability, climate),

Board Support: JC Graham

Liaisons: Kevin Jones, Steve Bergman

7. Spiritual Practices, Spiritual@v-mcc.org

Board Support: Doug Ostrom

Liaison: *Vacant*

8. Healthcare, Healthcare@v-mcc.org (Health and human services, people with mental health issues, people with substance abuse challenges)

Board Support: Jen Hrachovec

Liaisons: Debby Jackson (Health Care), Jeff Thompson (Recovery)

9. Children and Youth, Children@v-mcc.org (including child care services)

Board Support: Jessica Anakar

Liaison: Meg Thompson

10. Seniors and Elderly, Seniors@v-mcc.org (including isolated adults and adult care services)

Board Support: Ann Thorn

Liaison: *Vacant*

11. Veterans, Veterans@v-mcc.org

Board Support: Jeff Thompson

Liaison: JC Graham

12. Commuters, Commuters@v-mcc.org

Board Support: Meg Thompson

Liaison: Erik Christensen

13. Multi-Generational Islanders, Multigen@v-mcc.org

Board Support: JC Graham

Liaison: Jessica Anakar