

VMICC Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2020

7:05-8:38 pm

Online, using Webex

These Minutes approved at the Aug 17, 2020 VMICC meeting

Meeting called by: Vashon-Maury Island Community **Type of Meeting:** Virtual Council meeting

Facilitators: David Vogel, Ella Yarkin, Diane Emerson

Note Taker: Meeting was transcribed by Webex, summarized by Diane Emerson, David Vogel, and Jeff Dunicliff

Attendees: 44 people attended the meeting.

Participants:

1. Call-in User_2 (206499****)
2. Call-in User_3 (206523****)
3. Call-in User_4 (206459****)
4. Call-in User_5 (425444****)
5. Call-in User_6 (206612****)
6. Adam Day
7. Amy Morrison
8. Kathleen Fitch
9. Barbara Wells
10. Bill Moyer
11. Cheryl Lubbert
12. Bong Sto. Domingo: bong.stodomingo@kingcounty.gov
13. Brendan McCluskey
14. Carla Okigwe
15. Craig Beles
16. Dan Schueler
17. Diane Emerson
18. Doug Hoffmann
19. David's Vogel
20. David Benham
21. Debra Twersky
22. Eleanor Yarkin
23. Eric Casler
24. Holly Shull
25. Linda Fox
26. Jeff Dunicliff
27. Jim Diers
28. John Taylor: john.taylor@kingcounty.gov
29. Jeff Twersky
30. Judy Kimmel
31. Judy Twedt
32. Liz Illg

33. Mark McCulley
34. Melvin Mackey
35. Carla Elise
36. Morgan Brown
37. Paul Rowley
38. Trey McBride
39. Ryan Maloney
40. Stephanie Marotta
41. Mark Seely
42. Susan Riemer
43. Steve Bergman
44. Will Lockwood

Those interested in watching the video of the meeting can do so for the next 4 months. The video of the meeting with transcription are available at this link:

<https://gardengreen.my.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/gardengreen.my/recording/playback/ceab3b0747284d14a4c32f7df008a40a>

The password to watch the video is: **3XjK3hX2**

The transcript of the meeting will be available as a permanent record of the meeting. Note: the transcript is an unedited version created by Webex's voice recognition software. While good, it is not perfect. Contact Diane Emerson to obtain a copy.

Minutes

1. **Webex Instructions**. – Diane Emerson
2. **Welcome**. David Vogel
3. **June 15 meeting minutes** were reviewed and approved.
4. **The meeting agenda** was reviewed and approved.
5. **John Taylor** – David Vogel introduced John, and John addressed the following questions which were submitted in advance. Please see the video or the transcript for Mr. Taylor's detailed responses. If a brief answer was possible, it is included in the minutes. **A succinct summary of the questions and responses was published in the July 30 Beachcomber. Here is a link to that issue: https://www.vashonbeachcomber.com/editions/?pub_code=vmb&&iid=i20200730031506325&&headline=MjAyMCOwNy0zMA==&&doc_id=200730102024-7da88da291fb7ad1363ce896cf4b8ddf**

Questions Submitted:

1) Bianca Perla - I work for Vashon Nature Center and we have been experiencing an increase in RV dumping going on near some of our study sites. Some of this dumping is near beach sites we survey and goes directly into Quartermaster harbor. We have also seen dumping in a storm drain that leads directly to one of our biggest salmon-bearing creeks--Shinglemill. This issue seems to be increasing around the island and is exasperated by the fact that we have NO place for people to dump RV waste legally on Vashon.

I know people have started looking into this issue and it would be great to have an update and a way forward. What needs to be done to at least get a holding tank for RV waste somewhere on Vashon that can be pumped and taken off island? And, considering the huge effort that King County is putting into cleaning up Quartermaster harbor can some of those funds be used to address this issue?

2) Richard Ames - Be sure and have John bring an update on what the County Council is doing re: The West Seattle Bridge. I have seen some ideas for repair, replacement, or even a cut and cover tunnel. We need to be sure KC is working with Seattle.

3) Mark Nassutti - Roads: Are there any metrics around potholes and crumbling pavement edges? Like how many potholes are there, how many get fixed, HOW do they get fixed (is there a pothole hotline?). Same with pavement edges.

A: Pothole Hotline: the Pothole Rangers: 206-477-8100. For potholes, downed trees, and abandoned cars

Affordable housing: What would it take to create 500 homes/apartments cheap enough so a minimum-wage couple can pay the rent and have money left over for everything else? And have those units built in two years? King County scrambled to deal with Covid-related housing problems and got things done incredibly fast. Can we channel some of that energy into fixing this problem?

Thumbs up for Town road closures at busiest pedestrian times (e.g. First Fridays or special events). Would like to see a permanent solution. The idea of allowing restaurants to create outdoor space in the street is fantastic. Could that happen in parking lots too?

4) Richard Gordon - In the past King County has offered to connect Beall road to 91st Ave SW to create a useful town bypass. This should be looked at again, especially in light of suggestions to close Vashon Highway "occasional weekend or more permanently".

The usual bypass routes are difficult and very dangerous. The Beall Rd-91st Avenue connection has many people who are loudly against it but it affects the entire island population including public transportation and public safety any time the main road is closed.

5) Rondi Lightmark - <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/global-warming-brings-wildfire-risk-rainy-us-northwest->

This article from a year ago states that NW towns are "woefully unprepared" for wildfire risks.

I asked on the Facebook page for the Whole Vashon Project if this was the case on Vashon. A good number of people agreed and said that Vashon forests need tending and we need more guidance in general about what to do on our properties—and possibly an "island standard," for which there is financial help to achieve.

Also: although Vashon Be Prepared does a fantastic job discussing how to prepare for an earthquake, it neglects addressing the absolute certainty that a quake will cause fires all over the island—what to do and how?

A: King County works with King Conservation District on this issue:

King Conservation District Firewise

<http://kingcd.org/programs/better-forests/wildfire-resiliency/>

Matthew Axe—Wildfire and Forest Resiliency Coordinator

Direct: (425) 282-1900 | Cell: (425)773-5060

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Renton, WA 98057

6) Cindy Young - Here are three questions for John Taylor:

King County Solid Waste (KCSW) hired a consultant (HDR) to study one or more specific sites on Vashon to determine if it is feasible to install a compost facility on them. When asked to specify the location of the site(s) in consideration, Morgan John of KCSW told me, that this it is only a feasibility study and no specific site has been picked. I know that. I want to know the location of the site(s) that are under consideration. I have found out through the grapevine that one of the sites is the Borrow Pit within Center Forest on land owned by Parks. What are the other sites, if any? I have also written the directors of King County Solid Waste and Parks and Recreation and have received no reply."

A: *No sites are under consideration at this time.*

"What is the precedent that allows the installation any kind of facility such as an aerobic digester within a King County Park, a Critical Aquifer Recharge Area, a wetland and a stream buffer and near homes?"

"What is the status of the Feasibility Study? I hear rumors it is on hold?"

A: *It is not on hold, and will be completed in August or September, with community meetings to follow. Here are two websites to view to get information on the compost facility feasibility study:*

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/facilities/vashon-compost.aspx>

<http://zerowastevashon.org/vashon-compost-facility-study/>

7) Kate Bladon - Why is a composting facility (with or without a digester) being considered for Vashon when the negative effects of these facilities on neighbors, issues and nuisances are well-documented? We do not have to look further than the Cedar Grove facility to see the effects

-As a feasibility survey for a composting facility is currently underway, what research has been done on the effects of the Critical Aquifer area that is near one of the proposed locations (at the Transfer Station or in the Borrow Pit of King County Parks)

-Why is King County Parks land being considered as a possible location for a composting facility? The fact that the land once did not belong to Parks is moot. If a prior private owner who sold land to King County and asked for it back, this would be denied.

-How is it guaranteed that there will be no effect on the wells in the vicinity of a composting facility, some of which are within a few hundred feet and are a part of a Critical Aquifer area?

-What are the locations being considered for a composting facility (with or without a digester)? The parties involved in the possible project are not forthcoming with details. Residents should be privy to all information regarding this possible composting facility, yet they are not.

A. *No sites are under consideration yet.*

8) Jim Garrison - Burton Water Co. is looking for an update on the Recycled Asphalt debacle.

1) Will the hazardous material be removed from Vashon?

2) What steps can we take so that in the future should there be similar threats to the Vason aquifer there is a clear channel to respond to such an incident?

3) The reporting of steps being taken or not taken, current status of material is still poor. Groundwater Committee is not in the loop. Burton Water Co. is not in the loop. How can Vashon respond to threats to our aquifer when there is no process to do so.

9) Morgan Brown - With Roads being one of the two main hats you wear for Local Services, what are your thoughts on Vashon pedestrian and bike road improvements proposal – including a pedestrian main street – described in an editorial opinion piece in last week’s Vashon Beachcomber?

Vashon is often thought of as an attractive venue for bike enthusiasts and destination for bike excursions and yet there are many aspects of the roads that remain unfriendly to bikes and pedestrians. The section from Town to Town Center (and the three public schools) with it’s 40 mph speed being the most obvious example. The opinion piece in the VBC by Shane Jewell and the information at his link to the Bike Vashon Roadmap offer some creative and timely solutions worth consideration.

[Four reasons Vashon needs a pedestrian main street](#), Opinion piece by Shane Jewell in Vashon Beachcomber, 7/12/20

[Bike Vashon Roadmap](#), with suggestions for improvements to Vashon's bike and pedestrian mobility ([see map](#)), including a [pedestrian main street](#)

10) David Vogel - As you are well aware, the 4-way stoplight in the Town of Vashon is by far the busiest intersection on Vashon Island, and is heavily used by pedestrians. There have been many near-accidents at this location between cars and pedestrians. There have been questions about converting the center of Town to a pedestrian-only thoroughfare, but short of that, there is a great need to make the pedestrian crossings for this intersection safer. Is the County considering lighting the crosswalks at this intersection, and if not, why not?

6. **Q & A for John Taylor**

Questions from attendees were also addressed by John. Here are the questions asked in the Chat. The answers can be found in the video or the transcript of the video.

from Holly Shull to Everyone: 7/20/2020 7:40 PM

Plowing our cross roads in winter on Vashon is a safety issue...

from Adam Day to Everyone: 7/20/2020 7:44 PM

Could King County create a transportation benefit district for Vashon to address our own road issues?

from Judy Twedt to Everyone: 7/20/2020 7:48 PM

question: Can you please restate the process for creating the next biennial budget?

from Bill Moyer to Everyone: 7/20/2020 7:51 PM

Does the Dept of Local services have anything like online/Zoom-like "office hours"? If not, maybe that would be an ongoing way to be virtually available as a resource to local folks rather than this sort of avalanche of information, and a way to facilitate connection with other community members with similar interests, access to County or other programs, services, and advice for incubating local ideas/projects. Maybe you are already doing this, but I haven't heard of anyone. Seems like a relatively affordable way for the county to connect with the community. from Bill Moyer to Everyone: 7/20/2020 8:10 PM

As a followup to the idea of office hours, you could certainly use "breakout rooms for more private/confidential conversations. Zoom offers that sort of thing and we could brainstorm on solutions to the challenges. Sure seems worth a try, and some promotion on VoV, Vashon be prepared, fliers, etc.

from Eric Casler to Everyone: 7/20/2020 7:53 PM

Understanding that the city of Seattle has the responsibility for the West Seattle bridge closure, has King County considered working with Colman dock to make any changes for KC water taxi or WSF to accommodate downtown-bound traffic?

from Stephanie Marotta to Everyone: 7/20/2020 7:55 PM

Please advise about the status of Tramp Harbor Pier. How is King County assisting in the reopening of our ONLY pier.

7. Board Nominations. A summary of the Nominating Committee and Elections Committee were read, and volunteers requested.
8. Ad Hoc Announcement: Bill Moyers of the Backbone Campaign announced the formation of a Time Bank for Vashon, named Vashon Island Time Exchange. Here is the website:
<https://www.vashonresilience.org/vite>
9. Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 7pm, via Webex. We will add Community Announcements to the end of future agendas.
10. Adjourn