

December 6th, 2021

BOARD Meeting

7:30pm – 9:56pm

Hosted on Zoom



Meeting Attendees:

Board Chair: David Vogel

Board Co-Chair: Diane Emerson

Board Secretary: Camille Reeves

Board Member: Gavin Kovite

Board Scribe: Kyle Britz

Board Member: C. Hunter Davis

Board Treasurer: Nicholas Simmons

Board Member: Michaela Olavarri

Board Member: John Affolter

Community: Bill Lyell

Community: Rob Piston

Community: Armen Yousoufian

Community: Kevin Jones

Community: Seth Zuckerman

Community: David Hoffman

Community: Dr. Steve Nourse

1. Approved Agenda: with amendments offered by Camille to have time to address if the VMICC will provide a statement on the Fauntleroy ferry terminal.
2. Approved Minutes: November's board meeting approved with minor spelling errors, & adjustment to the treasury report as listed below.
3. Tasks:
 - David follow-up with KCSO regarding Fish and Wildlife
 - David check with the Nonprofit Law Clinic regarding 501c statuses and modifying the articles of incorporation.
 - Further thoughts on type of 501 status
 - Communications Committee to coordinate with Rachel Rome regarding streaming VMICC general meeting on YouTube. A temporary backup will be recorded on David's cloud Zoom account: to retrieve the attendee list, and if the YouTube stream does not work.
 - Treasurer: There cannot be an EIN until there is a 501 status. The budget projections for 2022 need to be modified to include insurance for the board & filing for new articles of incorporation. Correction to the Annual treasury report that Hunter has paid for previous WebEx account.
4. Reviewing November General Meeting:
 - When a community member asked to modify the agenda at the meeting for 2 specific individuals to have longer time to speak, it made it seem like the general community council was putting process before substance, and some claimed it

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- seemed partisan. The motion was put to a vote and the council as a whole voted for everyone to have an equal time to speak.
- Reviewed general **process of meeting decorum and the chair’s methods available within the policies and procedures for facilitation.**
 - The Vashon Maury Community Council represents a community forum. Anyone in the community has just as much right to address their thoughts and opinions before the membership as anyone else. As an organization we need to have a clear process and structure for equity.
 - Invited speakers need to be on the published distributed agenda prior to the meeting, and can request to be included by emailing Diane@vmicc.net or Camille@vmicc.net, otherwise all attendees have the same privileges.
 - For those making presentations, copies of their presentation or slides need to be shared with the Board prior to the meetings, and for the *presenters* to practice using the meeting platform with the board prior to the meeting.
 - For the General meetings we need to practice using the 🙋 **Hand Raise** 🙋 feature in “reactions” and review other Zoom Platform Protocols, as well as remind people to lower their hands. We will expand upon Zoom meeting features, and meeting rules of decorum at the start of and throughout the meeting.
 - A brief statement will be made regarding attendee guidelines, and to not permit anyone to monopolize discussions. These will be necessary to help facilitate group agreements, as well as stating how we will address attendees not abiding by the meeting agreements.
 - Remind people of the meeting decorum, methods for making motions, and conduct to participate in the meetings.
 - A community member present acknowledged that *they thought controversy would bring more attendees and more discussion* and that it was part of their goal.
 - Debate format vs an established 2-minute response time needs to be clear.
5. 501c options: relating to budget, operations, and activities: Presentations made by Bill Lyell and Seth Zuckerman; with experience in nonprofit lobbying and nonprofit social clubs.

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- Reviewed the intention of the Vashon Maury Island Community Council being a town hall forum.
 - Concerns were voiced if all residents have access to *participate as early as the age of 16 years old*, do their parents need to give permission for them to be able to vote as a member of the community? [or can the published bylaws grant that permission for the organization]
 - Concerns were voiced if all Vashon Maury residents have access to participate, *what is to prevent and protect* those under the age of 18 from being subject to registered sex offenders?
 - Reviewed types of 501c statuses; the ability to receive donations; which 501c status donations can be written off for tax purposes; which 501c status appears to align with VMICC's operations since 2019's revitalization.
 - Reviewed IRS documents for 501c types (focusing on c3, c4 and c6) and 501c status as they relate to lobbying, and what it means to lobby issues vs lobby for politicians, and what percentage of the funds can be used towards lobbying.
 - 2019 VMICC began the process to file for 501c3. When working towards getting the EIN, it was discovered that the old VMICC had a 501c6 status, and there could be benefits to recovering it. Information for 501c4 as *a social welfare organization performing public community benefit* is compelling towards adjusting the articles of incorporation while the status is still in process.
 - Bylaws are under ownership of the Board, not the membership. The Board is legally responsible and accountable to the bylaws, which most organizations don't permit members to vote upon.
 - Interest in VMICC filing for 501c4 with a subset of 501c3.
 - Further consultations will be conducted with the free Nonprofit Law Clinic and additional attorneys.
6. Reviewing Policies and Procedures, specifically addressing “symbolic statement motions” & “virtue signaling motions”: Presentation made by Gavin Kovite.

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Section 1: This Community Council exists to enable the people of Vashon-Maury Island to address important Island issues.

Policies and Procedures - <http://dev.vmicc.net/2020-vmicc-policies-procedures/>

- Limit the issues brought to the VMICC to those that affect the community. Avoid private concerns unless they have broad community implications. Avoid partisan political activity that supports or opposes one or more political parties or individuals for public office.

GOALS:

1. Ensure that the VMICC remains a "demilitarized zone" in our ongoing "culture wars."
2. Ensure that the VMICC remains maximally inclusive to Vashonites, regardless of partisan / political / ideological affiliation.
3. Avoid signalling allegiance to this or that side of the wider cultural / tribal conflicts that are gripping our national community.

Examples of statements that have nested meaning that "signal allegiance"

- 1. "The VMICC affirms the sanctity of marriage and the importance of family"
- 2. "The VMICC believes that all lives matter."
- 3. "The VMICC urges the workers of the world to unite."
- We need to have a safe place and supportive structure for people to express opinions and not worry about being penalized.
- Discussion on the merits of this, applications, and examples.
 - Any motion made must have an action item, so as not to be a statement that may on its own alienate.
 - A motion cannot be just a statement, it needs to have an action, and there needs to be time to discuss the motion so that people of the council can understand it before voting on it.
 - Motions are presented and seconded, and then are presented at the following general meeting to be voted upon or postponed for further discussion or friendly edits.

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- We used the recent Racial Equity Motion that was made “Condemning the racist harmful actions” experienced throughout town as an example to fit this criterion for not being merely a statement of *virtue signaling or symbolic language*, but rather stating facts of what occurred and providing an action that people can participate in, such as an action Committee to outline what condemnation of the racist attacks could be.
 - We are facilitators so the people of Vashon can have a voice. We don’t want to broadcast things we aren’t intending to and need to be careful in how we present information, as some statements may be linked with existing memes or political movements, there must be an opportunity to address them.
 - If the statement is too firm and the process too limited it may unintentionally prohibit community consciousness, and may lead people to believe there is partisanship.
- Gavin made friendly amendments after much discussion, and the Board voted on the language of the policy Guidelines to be amended, unanimously as:

Possible additions to Policies / Procedures?

Current Language:

“Limit the issues brought to the VMICC to those that affect the community. Avoid private concerns unless they have broad community implications. Avoid partisan political activity that supports or opposes one or more political parties or individuals for public office.”

Possible Additions:

- Avoid adopting symbolic resolutions.
- Strive to be neutral ground in our wider societal culture conflict, allowing islanders of different ideologies and political persuasions to join together to work on local issues.

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- Diane proposed (Camille seconded) that what we as a Board voted on for Gavin’s motion to present it to the General Community Council, so that we can address the policy, and have general council discussion, as well as establishing a process for reviewing motions if they meet these guidelines and add it to the December General VMICC meeting.

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7. WSDOT and WSF reached out to VMICC and requested a general statement by early January. As there is not time before January's General meeting to have a composed unified statement as the VMICC to the Fautleroy Ferry Terminal project, we will help to educate all on how to access the ongoing meetings and to provide individual feedback to the project through their project website. <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fautleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement>

- Reminders of the open position for the Vashon Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC)
 - A candidate was suggested: *Christina Arthur* who works for Seattle Public Transportation
 - We would also like updates on the West Seattle Bridge project.

8. Committees:

- **Ways and Means Committee** currently consists of John Affolter and Armen Yousoufian.
 - Focusing on fund raising ideas to generate operational donations for VMICC.
- **Communications Committee** will add the following committees to the website to invite interest in formation: *Transportation Committee* and *Climate Action Committee*.
 - Community outreach and social media publications of VMICC need to be clear when posting information not to speak *for* the VMICC when informing community of upcoming topics of interest, rather to illustrate things being discussed.

9. Confirmed Agenda for General December VMICC meeting.

10. Next board meeting January 3rd.

11. Meeting adjourned 9:56pm

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