## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 9, 10, 11 | **Name:** | Mary Bourguignon |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2016-0440 2016-0441 2016-0442 | **Date:** | September 14, 2016 |

**SUBJECT**

**Proposed Motion 2016-0440** would appoint Gregory J. Beardsley (District 8) to a term on the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee that will expire on June 30, 2020.

**Proposed Motion 2016-0441** would appoint Kari Ulatoski (District 8) to a term on the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee that will expire on June 30, 2018.

**Proposed Motion 2016-0442** would appoint Jan Stephens (District 8) to a term on the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee that will expire on June 30, 2019.

**SUMMARY**

Ferry Advisory Committees were established by the State legislature[[1]](#footnote-1) in order to provide local guidance for the Washington Station Department of Transportation on each area served by the Washington state ferries.

In most cases, the relevant county legislative authorities are responsible for appointing members to their local Ferry Advisory Committees. However, in the case of Vashon Island, the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council is designated as the appointing body for the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee, with the King County Council authorized to make appointments only if the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council has failed to fill a vacancy within 90 days.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The Vashon/Maury Island Community Council has been inactive since 2013 and, as a result, there are now unfilled vacancies on the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee. In response, the three proposed motions before the committee today would fill these vacancies by appointing three people who were previously appointed to the Ferry Advisory Committee by the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council. Their terms would be staggered, with one each running for two, three, and four years.

**BACKGROUND**

**Ferry Advisory Committees.** Ferry Advisory Committees were established by RCW 47.60.310 in order to provide local representation for the Washington Station Department of Transportation in, “soliciting and obtaining expressions from local community groups in order to be properly informed as to problems being experienced within the area served by the Washington state ferries.”

For Vashon Island, the Ferry Advisory Committee is to consist of three members. At least one of these members must represent an established ferry user group or frequent users of the ferry system. Each member is required to live in the vicinity of the ferry terminal.[[3]](#footnote-3) Not more than two members of the committee may be from the same political party at the time of their appointment.[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Appointing Bodies.** In most cases, the relevant county legislative authorities are responsible for appointing members to their local Ferry Advisory Committees. However, in the case of Vashon Island, RCW 47.60.310 provides that Vashon Island shall have one committee “and its members shall be appointed by the Vashon/Maury Island community council.”[[5]](#footnote-5)

The State law goes on to note that, “[i]f the Vashon/Maury Island community council fails to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy within ninety days of the occurrence of the vacancy, the legislative authority of King county shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

According to the records of Washington State non-profit corporations, the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council has been inactive since 2013. It is no longer meeting or operating and, thus, is unable to fill vacancies on the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee. As a result, the responsibility for filling vacancies on the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee now rests with the King County Council.

**Proposed Motion 2016-0440: Gregory J. Beardsley.** Mr. Beardsley has lived on Vashon Island about a 12-minute drive from the ferry terminal for more than 30 years and has been a frequent ferry commuter for more than 40 years. He was appointed and then reappointed to the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee by the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council. Based on his records and recollections, his latest term expired more than 90 days ago. Mr. Beardsley considers himself to be an Independent.

Proposed Motion 2016-0440 would appoint Mr. Beardsley to the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee for a four-year term that would expire on June 30, 2020.

**Proposed Motion 2016-0441:** **Kari Ulatoski.** Ms. Ulatoski has lived on Vashon Island about a three-minute drive from the ferry terminal for 20 years and has been a frequent ferry commuter throughout that time. Her elderly parents, who also live on Vashon Island, rely on the ferry for frequent medical appointments, giving Ms. Ulatoski familiarity with the needs of those who are elderly or disabled. She was appointed to the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee by the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council. Based on her records and recollections, her latest term expired more than 90 days ago. Ms. Ulatoski considers herself to be a Democrat.

Proposed Motion 2016-0441 would appoint Ms. Ulatoski to the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee for a two-year term that would expire on June 30, 2018.

**Proposed Motion 2016-0442:** **Jan Stephens.** Mr. Stephens has lived on Vashon Island about a nine-minute drive from the ferry terminal for 37 years and has fought to maintain ferry service for more than five years. He was appointed to the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee by the Vashon/Maury Island Community Council. Based on his records and recollections, his latest term expired more than 90 days ago. Mr. Stephens considers himself to be a Republican.

Proposed Motion 2016-0442 would appoint Mr. Stephens to the Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee for a three-year term that would expire on June 30, 2019.

**ANALYSIS**

The proposed motions meet the requirements of State law for appointments to a Ferry Advisory Committee:

* The Vashon/Maury Island Community Council has been inactive since 2013 and has left unfilled vacancies on the Ferry Advisory Committee. Responsibility for filling these vacancies now rests with the King County Council.
* The three appointees all reside in the vicinity of the ferry terminal, as required by State law,[[7]](#footnote-7) and are frequent users of the ferry system.
* One of the proposed appointees represents the needs of the elderly and disabled based on her experience with the medical commuting needs of her elderly parents, meeting the requirement that “[a]t least one person appointed to each ferry advisory committee shall be representative of an established ferry user group or of frequent users of the ferry system.”[[8]](#footnote-8)
* The three appointees represent a range of political affiliations: Republican, Democrat, and Independent, thus meeting the requirement that “[n]ot more than two members of any terminal-area committee may be from the same political party at the time of their appointment.”[[9]](#footnote-9)

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2016-0440
2. Proposed Motion 2016-0441
3. Proposed Motion 2016-0442

1. RCW 47.60.310 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. RCW 47.60.310 (2) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. RCW 47.60.310 (2) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. RCW 47.60.310 (4) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. RCW 47.60.310 (2) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. RCW 47.60.310 (2) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. RCW 47.60.310 (2) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. RCW 47.60.310 (2) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. RCW 47.60.310 (4) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)