

**December 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes  
Vashon Progressive Alliance (VPA)**

Attendees: Sheila Brown (Host), Diane Emerson (facilitator), Trey McBride (minutes), Melvin Mackey, Christopher van Putten, Steve Rubicz, Terry Sullivan, Kevin Jones

The meeting began at 6:30pm with introductions and ended at 8:30pm.

**Announcements:**

**Opposition to the proposed Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility in Tacoma:** Kevin updated attendees on recent activist work encouraging PSE to switch to 100% carbon free emissions by 2030, closing coal plants, & focusing on increasing use of renewable energies (solar, wind, & geothermal). Work continues to compel PSE to convert customers to non-fossil fuels with an emphasis on creating a carbon-free Vashon. Kevin also shared information concerning the recent LNG facility “shut-in” and creation of a carbon-free team to halt its future construction.

**Action Items:**

1. Melvin provided an email response from Susie Murphy outlining **procedures for alerting islanders of the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Vashon-Maury Island**. The procedures are as follows:
  1. If anyone witnesses activities they believe are associated with an ICE raid on Vashon, they should document what they see (such as photos of agents on the ferry), if possible.
  2. The witness should immediately contact BOTH Sally Adam & Alejandra Tres (call or text) AND forward any documentation (text or email).
    - **Sally Adam:** (206) 218-9545 (cell), [sadam@vashonsd.org](mailto:sadam@vashonsd.org) (email)
    - **Alejandra Tres:** (206) 491-7653 (cell), [alejandra.tres@gmail.com](mailto:alejandra.tres@gmail.com) (email)
  3. If someone hears about possible ICE activity on the island from someone else:
    1. DO NOT post any information on Facebook
    2. DO NOT directly call Latino families
    3. **DO CALL both Sally & Alejandra** & provide the following:
      1. Name
      2. How information was obtained
      3. Who provided the initial information
      4. Contact information for the person who provided the initial report (for verification)

4. VERIFICATION is the most important step in the process. At least three false notifications have already been released.
5. Homeland Security (HS) officers frequently, but irregularly, make checks on the ferry system and their uniforms are similar to ICE officers. ICE officers may also wear uniforms to deceive the public.
2. Melvin provided a **Draft Endorsement Agreement** concerning a proposed process for conducting VPA endorsements. Attendees discussed the DRAFT guidelines for creating a two-step process for making endorsements, what constitutes a quorum at meetings, and how to conduct emergency endorsements. There are no proposed amendments to the draft at this time. By unanimous decision, agreement was reached that the number of members attending a meeting to ratify the draft endorsement agreement would be "10." Because only 8 members attended the current meeting, the draft will be brought up as an Action Item at the next VPA meeting.

#### **Follow Up on Action Items from November Minutes:**

1. **Facebook Invitations:** Diane sent Facebook invitations for users to join the VPA Facebook group page.
  - Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1963301213912655/about/>
2. **VPA mission statement:** Diane posted the mission statement on VPA's website and Facebook.
  - Website: <http://www.vashonprogressivealliance.org>
3. **Calendar/website analytics:** Diane shared the analytics for tracking the number of visitors to the VPA website and calendar is working.
  - A few analytic stats for the webpage: 4,679 total views, 334 average monthly views, the highest number of monthly views was 891, the highest number of daily views was 169
4. **Endorsements:** organizations VPA endorses are now viewable on the homepage
5. **Voting procedures:** Melvin's Draft Endorsement Agreement was discussed during the Action Items portion of the meeting. Attendees agreed by unanimous decision to revisit the draft as an action item at the next VPA meeting.
6. **Pre-election Salon:** Diane agreed to set up & host a potluck a dinner prior to elections where attendees would role-play electors to get informed prior to elections.
7. **Beachcomber notices:** Sheila agreed to handle print notices for the Beachcomber. Kevin agreed to handle online notices.
8. **Loop notices:** Terry agreed to handle Loop print notices.

9. **ICE on Vashon:** Melvin passed out proposed procedures for alerting others if ICE officers are spotted entering, or on, the island (see Action Item #1 above for procedural steps).
10. **Inviting other groups to VPA meetings:** Terry continues to reach out to other local groups with similar missions and values to VPA to join us at our January meeting.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Primila Jayapal Town Hall Meeting:** Representative Jayapal is scheduled to hold a Town Hall Meeting on Vashon, January 23rd (6:30 - 8:00 pm). The venue for the meeting is still in discussion.
2. **Unifying for Democracy:** Discussions continue for at least one outreach event to unify supporters of Democratic, Libertarian, & Green Party candidates in the 2016 presidential election. The primary focus of the event is facilitating table discussions of values that UNIFY supporters across the political spectrum and promote personal awareness.
3. **The word Revolution to VPA members:** Discussions concerning the using the word “revolution” continue as the VPA continues to grow its membership. Attendees shared examples of how the word can have negative connotations and highlighted the emphasis for inclusion, not exclusion, in VPA’s discourse & rhetoric.
4. **Impeachment Movement:** Attendees discussed the current status of efforts within the House of Representatives (HoR) to impeach President Trump. The impeachment proposal was tabled by the House in early December. Progressive activist Tom Steyer’s petition for impeaching Trump now has over 3.5 million signatures.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of the month, January 16th.