

## Vashon Progressive Alliance Minutes – 8/21/18

### Attendees:

Sheila Brown, Brian Brown (hosts), Diane Emerson (facilitator), Doc (minutes), Terry Sullivan, Melvin Mackey, Jennifer Zeisig, Judy White, Riki Ott, Susan McCabe, Judy Whitney, Jo Ann Herbert

### Announcements:

- Susan McCabe would like to hold a community forum on Democracy and the Legislative Process. What will get people to vote, to think? She is looking at October 4, with a panel including Kevin Jones, Sharon Nelson, and others. This began a discussion: Terry Sullivan offered to join forces in this effort with United for Democracy. Riki Ott shared her experience building community in other locations, and how the organizers asked the community three questions, with 3 minutes to write the answers:
  1. What do we value?
  2. What do we want to see different?
  3. What are the action steps to get there?Then they prioritized the action steps. Once people saw their own values reflected back at them, it ended the conflict. Riki would be happy to work with Susan and United for Democracy on the event.

### Meeting Minutes review:

- All actions from last meeting have been completed.

### New Business:

- Riki Ott: Ultimate Civics
  - o We were honored to have Riki Ott join us for our August meeting. Here is some information on Riki Ott, from her website: <http://www.rikiott.com/about-riki/bio/> “Ott co-founded Ultimate Civics, a project of Earth Island Institute, and the national grassroots coalition MoveToAmend.org. Ott advocates ending corporate rule and creating sustainable communities. She lectures nationally and internationally, inspiring students from fifth grade through universities and adults to take action and showing by example how one person can make a difference.
  - o Ms. Ott’s Academic Training:

- Doctorate of Philosophy (1985) from University of Washington, WA, School of Fisheries with emphasis on effects of heavy metals on benthic invertebrates
    - Masters of Science (1980) from University of South Carolina, SC, Baruch Institute in marine biology with emphasis on effects of oil on zooplankton
    - Bachelor of Science (1976) from Colby College, Waterville, Maine
  - Riki treated us to a visual Timeline of Rights and Privileges: Understanding the Balance of Power. The key points in the timeline were strung up along the driveway, and she walked us through it, pointing out where citizens of the US have lost Democracy to oligarchies and corporations over time, beginning with the founding of our country. You can see it here: <http://ultimatecivics.org/timeline/>
  - Several of those present are interested in having Riki present her work to islanders. **Once dates and times are set, Diane will help promote the events.**
- New VPA Endorsement Procedure:  
Diane Emerson and Sheila Brown proposed a new endorsement procedure that does not require unanimous votes, and allows for people to abstain from voting, if they wish. During the discussion, Terry Sullivan proposed to have the vote to add an endorsement to next month's agenda be a simple majority vote. Sheila and Diane considered that a friendly amendment. Here is a link to the proposed new endorsement procedure, with Terry's suggestion included:  
<https://www.vashonprogressivealliance.org/Post%20meeting%20Aug%2021%20Proposed%20Endorsements%20Procedure%20.pdf>
- Melvin Mackey proposed three additional amendments, but we did not have time to consider them thoroughly, so voted to discuss the new endorsement procedure at the September meeting. To enable us to minimize the meeting time spent on this issue, please read through Melvin's suggested amendments, which you can find at this link:  
<https://www.vashonprogressivealliance.org/Melvin's%20Aug%2021%20Proposed%20Endorsements%20Procedure.pdf>
- New Venue – We have enjoyed the hospitality of Sheila and Brian Brown for two years. Jo Ann Herbert's touching thank you was read to the group. Now it is time for the Vashon Progressive Alliance to find a new venue. We discussed several options, and decided to begin meeting at the library. Diane had reserved the meeting room just in case the group wanted to begin there. If anyone prefers a different venue, they can propose it at a future meeting. The meetings will continue to be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of

the month, from 6:30 to 8:15 or so, with the room reserved beginning at 6pm so tables and chairs can be set up, and snacks shared. **Diane will reserve the library meeting room as far into the future as possible, and check on whether food and drinks are allowed. Sheila will contact the *Beachcomber* to change the venue in their calendar. Terry will do the same at the *Loop*.**

- Vashon Sustainability Festival – Insufficient time to address this topic. Held over.
- Ideas for VPA role / visibility on Vashon - Insufficient time to address this topic. Held over to September

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 18, at the Vashon Library. Doors open at 6pm, meeting begins at 6:30.