



Planning and Community Development

Ryan Countryman

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

ECAF: 2024-1511

Motion: 24-285

Type:

Contract

Board Appt.

Code

Amendment

Budget Action

Other

Requested

Handling:

Normal

Expedite

Urgent

Fund Source:

General Fund

Other

N/A

Executive

Recommendation:

Approve

Do Not Approve

N/A

Approved as to

Form:

Yes

No

N/A

Subject: Board Reappointment – Snohomish County Planning Commission

Scope: Motion reappointing Merle Ash to Planning Commission as a District 1 representative.

Duration: Passage to July 1, 2028

Fiscal Impact: Current Year Multi-Year N/A

Authority Granted: None

Background:

The Board: The Planning Commission is an 11-member advisory body to the County Council and Executive. Terms on the commission are four years. (More details about the Planning Commission are on page 3). All planning commission positions are all currently occupied.

The Nominee: Merle Ash has recently completed a second full term on the Planning Commission and continues to serve under SCC 2.03.030(2) during the processing of this motion to reappoint him. He is a resident of Council District 1, owns a land use consultancy, and brings hands-on experience to the commission.

Councilmember Nate Nehring is nominating Merle Ash to a third full term as a District 1 representative. Merle Ash is well-qualified to continue serving. His experience brings a practical perspective and maintains balance on the Planning Commission. After completing this third full term, Merle Ash would need to have a period of two years’ absence from the commission before being eligible to serve again (SCC 2.03.050).

Request: Move Motion 24-285 to General Legislative Session on July 24 to set date and time for a public hearing. Suggested date and time: Wednesday August 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Exhibit A. Planning Commission Membership Table

Planning Commission Membership – March 28, 2024			
Representing	Commissioner	Term	Term Expiration
Council District #1	Merle Ash*	Third	July 1, 2028
	Mark James	Second	July 1, 2027
Council District #2	Raymond Sheldon, Jr.	Second	July 1, 2027
	Kimberly Busted	First	November 30, 2026
Council District #3	Robert Larsen, Chair	Third	July 1, 2027
	Layla Bush	First	July 1, 2025
Council District #4	Tom Campbell	First	November 24, 2025
	Neil Pedersen	First	January 4, 2027
Council District #5	Rosanna Brown	First	January 12, 2026
	Karl Niemela	First	July 1, 2026
At-Large	Angie Sievers	First	July 1, 2025
* Merle Ash nominated for reappointment by this motion			

Exhibit B. Composition and Requirements of the Planning Commission

The Snohomish County Planning Commission is an advisory body to the County Council and County Executive. The commission holds public hearings and provides recommendations on proposed changes to the county's comprehensive plan and development regulations. The commission has positions for eleven members, two from each council district and one at-large member nominated by the executive, which serve four-year terms and may not serve more than two complete consecutive terms.

Snohomish County Code ([2.03.060](#) and [2.08.080](#)) provides that the council appoints planning commission members. Requirements are that commissioners:

1. Not be county employees;
2. Have sufficient time to attend all scheduled meetings, and
3. Not serve on more than two boards or commissions at the same time (ad hoc or advisory committees do not count against the limit).

County code also provides that nominees should possess attributes including a background in one or more of the following:

- Architecture
- Law
- Farming
- Recreation
- Finance
- Real estate
- Environment
- Construction
- Fisheries
- Engineering
- Appraisal
- Land use planning
- Education
- Related backgrounds, or job knowledge or interests

Nominees should also have knowledge of land use theories and growth management legislation, minimal potential for conflict of interest, a demonstrated interest in the welfare of Snohomish County, and should add balance to countywide representation on the commission.

Additional information is available at <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/164/Planning-Commission>.