



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Planning & Community Development

Analyst: Ryan Countryman

ECAFs: 2023-0377, -0378 and -0379

Proposals: Proposed Motions 23-155, -156 and -157

Date: May 2, 2023

Consideration

Three proposed motions regarding membership (re-)appointments to the Snohomish County Arts Commission. Council staff requests a verbal amendment to Motion 23-157 to clarify that it is for a reappointment rather than an appointment.

Background

The Snohomish County Arts Commission is a volunteer advisory board to the executive branch that proposes and oversees a county arts program and performs related duties as described in [SCC 2.95.040](#). Commissioners serve for terms of four years or until appointment of their successor ([SCC 2.95.030\(6\)](#)). By tradition, full terms end on December 31 of the fourth year of appointment. (More details about the Arts Commission are on page 2. Details about each appointee are in the agenda materials.)

- Motion 23-155 would appoint Jaym Gates, a resident of Council District 3, to a first full term as an at-large member
- Motion 23-156 would appoint Joy Ratzel, a resident of Council District 5, to a first full term as an at-large member
- Motion 23-157 would (re-)appoint Kari Johnson, a resident of Council District 5, to a second term as an at-large member¹

Assuming passage of all three motions, the Arts Commission would have eight members, four representing specific council districts and four at-large members. The position representing Council District 4 and two-at large positions would remain vacant.

Current Proposal

Scope: Three motions for (re-)appointments to the Arts Commission

Effective Date: Upon Passage

Handling: Normal

Executive Recommendation: Approve

Request: Move all three motions to GLS on May 10th for consideration.

¹ Kari Johnson is currently completing a partial first term and was appointed by [Motion 20-416](#). The heading of Motion 23-157 describes its action as appointment. Similarly, the enactment clause says it is an appointment, but then correctly describes it as for a second term. Both the heading and enactment clause should say *re*-appointment. Council staff requests that direction to move this item to General Legislative Session for consideration also include direction to the Clerk to change the title and enactment clause of this motion, clarifying that it is for a reappointment.

Exhibit A – About the Arts Commission

The Snohomish County Arts Commission is a volunteer advisory board to the executive branch that proposes and oversees a county arts program ([SCC 2.95.010](#)). This arts program includes strategic objectives and specific tasks recommended by the arts commission and approved by the County Executive and County Council acting by motion ([SCC 2.95.050](#)). Provisions for the duties and powers of the Arts Commission are in SCC [2.95.040](#).

Originally established in 2004, the structure and membership requirements were revised in 2023 by [Amendment Ordinance 23-005](#).² Arts commissioners shall possess knowledge of, or demonstrated accomplishment in, and artistic field or have demonstrated a deep interest in and appreciation of cultural and artistic activities (SCC 2.95.030). As restructured, there are now positions for eleven members, including at least one from each council district plus six at-large members. No more than three at-large members can reside in the same council district. Terms of appointment are four years. Members serve without compensation. Appointment to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term is for remainder of the unexpired term.

² Amended Ordinance 23-005 passed on February 22, 2023 and the County Executive signed it the same day. However, the online version of the code is not current as of the writing of this staff report. References to sections of Chapter 2.95 SCC in this staff report discuss the code as recently adopted and available in the link to Amended Ord. 23-005 provided above, not the code as it temporarily still appears online.