



WHATCOM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Whatcom County Racial Equity Commission

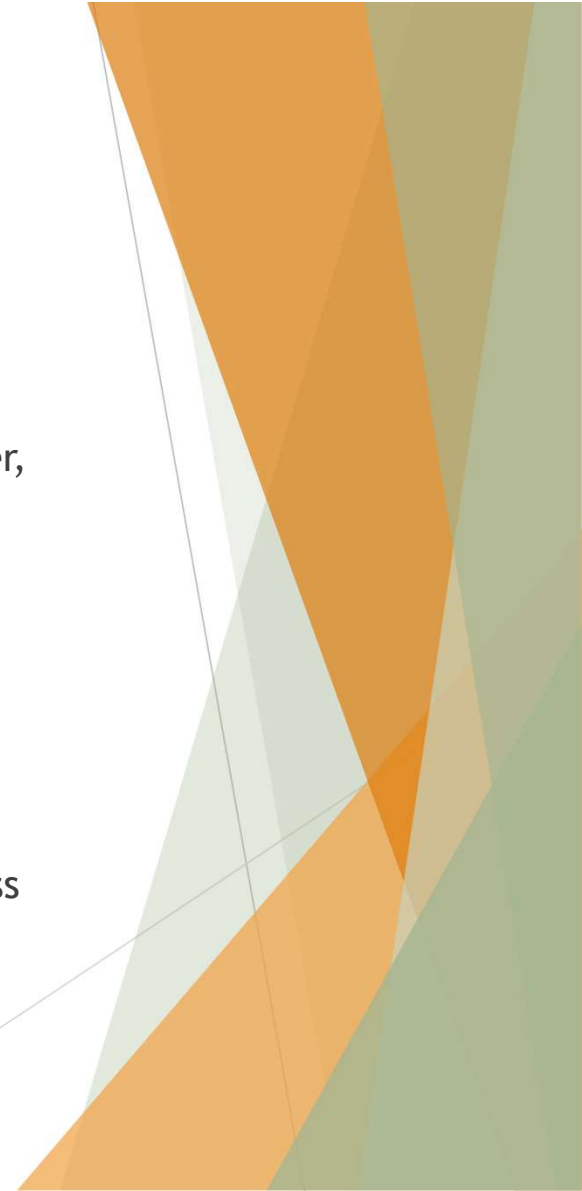
Whatcom County Council
Committee of the Whole
April 9th, 2024



Photos Courtesy of Sattva P...

Purpose & Process

- ▶ Established October 11th, 2022
- ▶ 2.107.020 Purpose: As a conduit for ongoing community collaboration, engagement, and education, within the broader context of diversity and inclusion, the purpose of the Whatcom racial equity commission is to gather, review, and evaluate data and to make recommendations on eliminating racial inequities, in all its forms, throughout Whatcom County.
- ▶ Rooted in key relationships
 - ▶ Community & Local Government
 - ▶ Community & Commission
 - ▶ Commission & Local Government
- ▶ Demonstrating deep community members engagement in civic spaces across the development, transition, seating, and launch of the Commission.

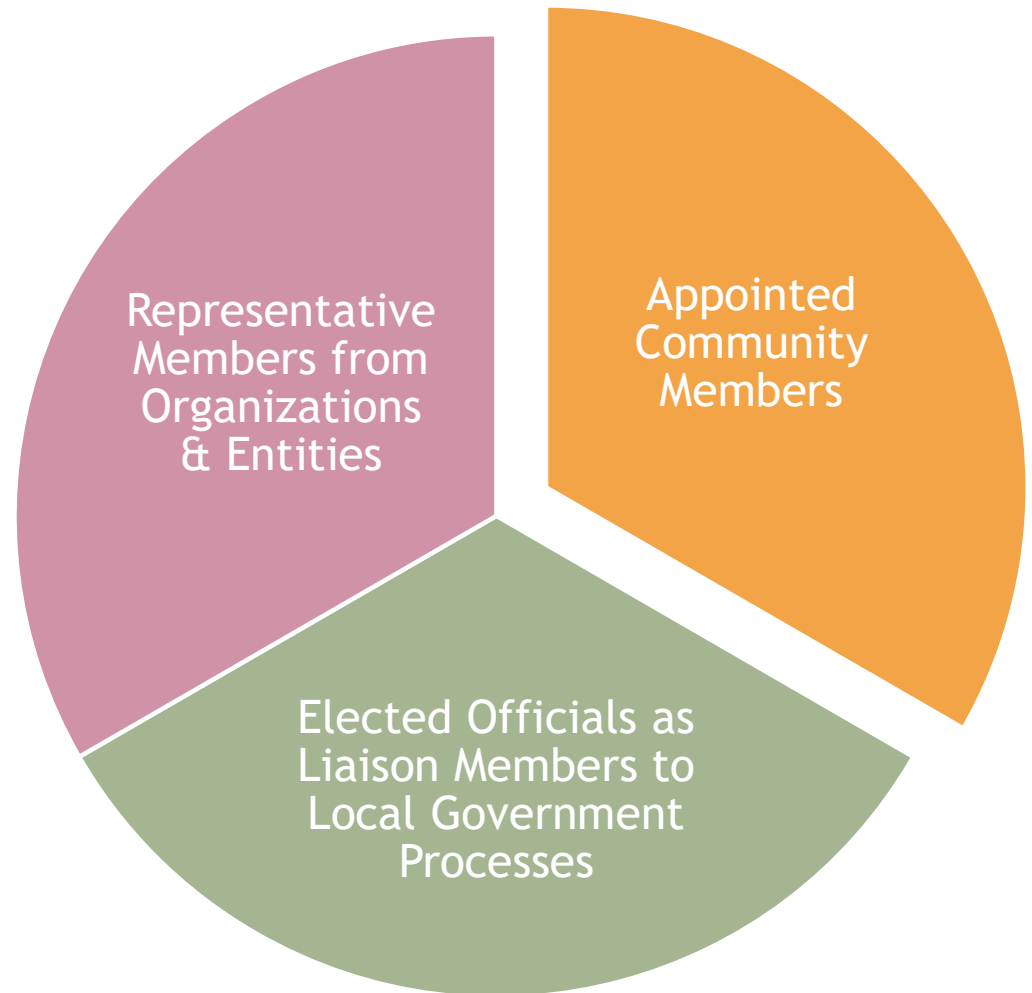


Development Process Participation Across Whatcom County



There were participants in the process who identified that they were from areas of Unincorporated Whatcom County. Additionally, some participants lived Outside of the County, and have interests in the area which may include but are not limited to working or attending school.

Our Conversation Today:
Seating Appointed
Members 2.107.060



County Council
appointed the WREC
Appointment Committee



Appointment Committee Members:

Dr. Vernon Damani Johnson
Dr. Francisco Rios
Eliana Steele
Dr. Pamela Wheeler
Matthew Durkee
Guava Jordan
Lee Langdon

Appointed by County Council
June 20th, 2023

Appointment Process to Date

County Council
appointed the WREC
Appointment Committee

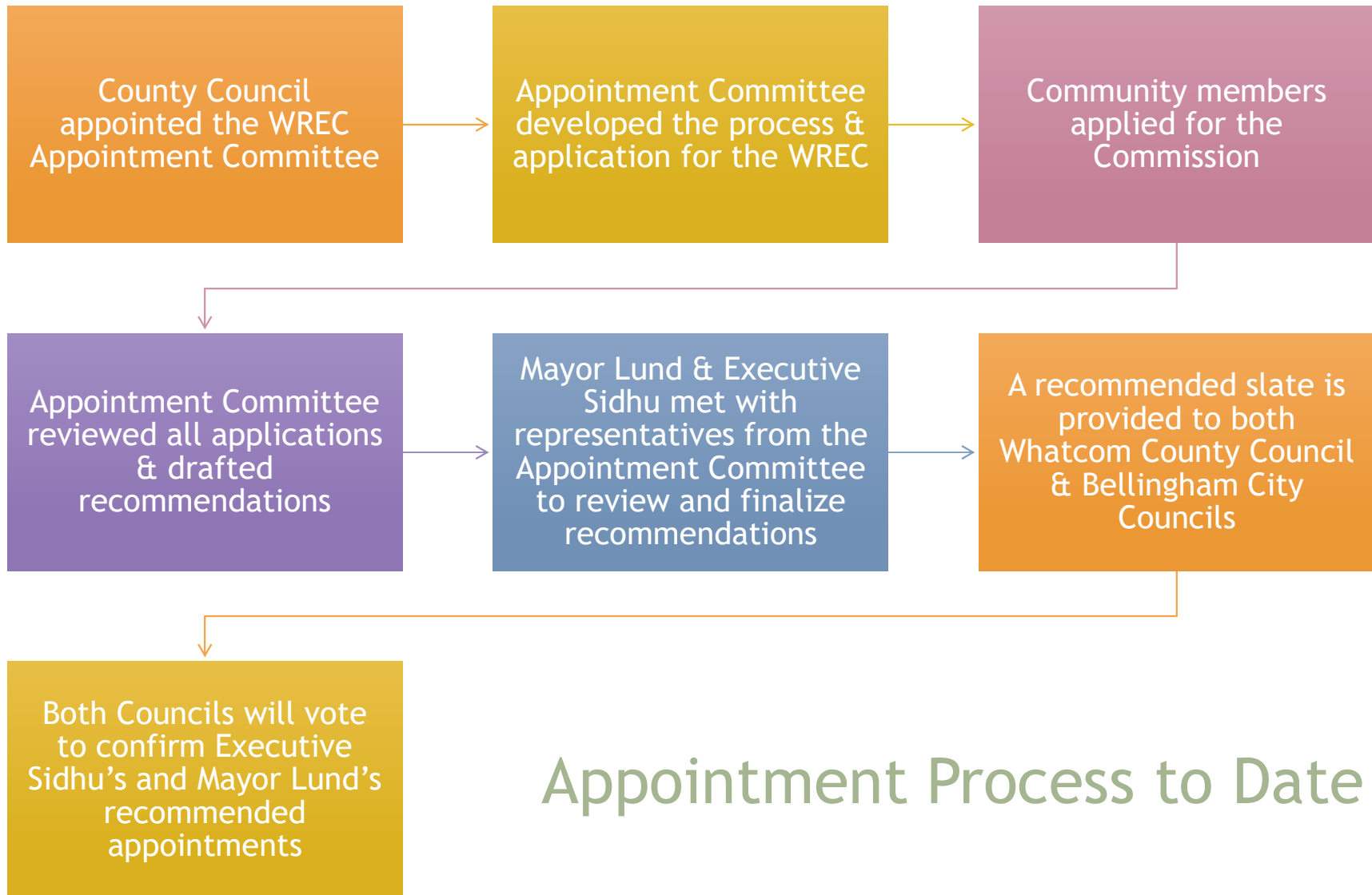


Appointment Committee
developed the process &
application for the WREC

Appointment Committee Key Process Recommendations:

1. Offer applications in multiple languages.
2. Create different ways applicants can provide statements.
3. Offer technical assistance from staff to support applicants.
4. Allow applicants to be considered across multiple roles.

Appointment Process to Date



Appointment Process to Date



43

Total community members from across
Whatcom County applied to join the Commission

Council Member	District	# of Applicants	Recommended for Confirmation
Galloway	District 1	11	4
Donovan	District 2	10	7
Byrd	District 3	9	2
Stremler	District 4	8	4
Elenbaas	District 5	5	2

Across all 5
County
Council
Districts

Identities, experiences, expertise, & perspectives



19 Available Appointed Member Roles

1. Up to seven community members, which group shall include at least one of the following:
 - a) A student living in Whatcom County;
 - b) A community member with experience caring for a student currently attending a Whatcom County public school such as parent, foster parent, grandparent, caregiver, or guardian;
 - c) An immigrant, migrant, or refugee;
 - d) A business owner, manager, or independent contractor;
 - e) A youth or young adult aged 16 to 24 at the time of appointment;
2. Two diversity officers or staff members engaged in DEI work in educational institutions: one working in local higher education institutions and one working in local K-12 schools;
3. Two human service providers, including, but not limited to, victim or offender services, housing or houseless services, and mental health services;
4. Up to four subject matter experts, individuals with expertise in, and/or specialists in the commission's areas of concern;
5. One social justice advocate or activist whose area of focus is racial equity;
6. One representative from a philanthropic organization;
7. One faith leader;
8. One multilingual health care provider.

Next Steps



Sharing gratitude & connecting to all applicants



County Council Confirmation



Bellingham City Council Confirmation



Member onboarding & support



First Commission Meeting May 2024



WHATCOM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Thank you so much for your time.

For more information:
Call Shu directly 360-219-3786

Or send an email to
WREC@ChuckanutHealthFoundation.org