



## Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

### Public Statement

*THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.*

Title	Ms.
First Name	Sonja
Last Name	Max
Today's Date	5/9/2019
Street Address	914 12th St
City	Bellingham
Zip	98225
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	206-331-0348
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	<a href="mailto:sonjamx@gmail.com">sonjamx@gmail.com</a>
1. Name of Board or Committee	<b>Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee</b>
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 1
4. Are you a US citizen?	Yes
5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? No

7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission? No

8. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County? No

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions [Sonja Max-resumeBikePed.pdf](#) - attached

9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education See attached PDF

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission See attached PDF

References (please include daytime telephone number): Kyle Morris, HUB bikeshop owner/Executive Director: 360-201-7338 April Claxton, former Executive Director Recreation Northwest: 360-223-5262 Chelsea Jepson, local business owner: 360-441-2368

Signature of applicant: Sonja Max

Place Signed / Submitted Bellingham, WA

RECEIVED  
MAY 14 2019  
JACK LOUWS  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
Please MP

Sonja Max

Statement/resumé for Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

After spending the past couple years renovating a historic building in downtown Bellingham and leasing it to commercial tenants, I am excited to continue and deepen my community involvement. After living and working in Seattle as a graphic designer for 10 years, I chose to live in Whatcom County for the exceptional quality of life that it offers. I am dedicated to taking an active role in preserving and improving the livability of this region, and see the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee as a great way to do this.

When not tending to landlord duties, I am an avid cyclist (mountain biking, road riding, commuting and long-distance gravel touring), hiker, gardener and cross-country skier. I have participated in the Ski to Sea race multiple years on car-free teams; I regularly race in the Bellingham Traverse; I have volunteered for Ride Run and Dig (RRAD) to support youth mountain bike and trail building activities; I have led wellness, nutrition and cooking classes at the Community Food Co-op, Bellingham Athletic Club and the YMCA. I am also currently serving on the Whatcom County Parks Commission, I am an active member of Walk Bike Bus Bellingham, and a past board member of Recreation Northwest.

I appreciate the incredible outdoor opportunities Whatcom County has to offer, and would like to make sure that all Whatcom County residents have access to the outdoors, whether on foot, on 2 wheels, or any other way they might choose. Having an equitable transportation infrastructure is a great way to insure that all people have access not only to recreational opportunities, but also to the very basic services that all residents require. Not everyone has the means to own and/or drive an automobile, but everyone does deserve access to the wide variety of destinations within the county. It makes economic sense to provide that access for all residents.

Additionally, as the population of Whatcom County grows, congestion will continue to be a problem. The more we can mitigate this problem by providing alternate routes of active transportation, the more livable this region will be. Research continues to prove that providing safe alternatives to driving results in more trips being taken by alternative means. Thus, providing safe and separate transportation choices benefits not only those who wish to get out of their cars, but it enhances the driving experience for those who need to or want to keep driving when fewer cars are on the road.

Day-to-day operational skills, budgeting proficiency, and the ability to plan and envision future spaces and projects coupled with my love for cycling and walking seems like a great fit for the Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. I would be honored to serve on the Committee and genuinely hope to get the opportunity to do so.

WORK HISTORY

2015 - present Restoring Cascade Laundry Building in Bellingham  
Position: building owner, manager, project coordinator, contractor's assistant. Includes lease negotiations with tenants, working with city and state officials for permits and historical tax credits, and striving to maintain a sustainable process by salvaging/re-using materials, insulating, installing a solar array, heating and lighting with an eye toward energy conservation, and planning for bicycle parking and storage for building patrons.

- 2011 - 2015      Sonja Max, MS, RD  
Position: private practice dietitian consulting with clients for a wide variety of health conditions, weight loss and disease prevention. Included public talks and classes on healthy cooking and eating.
- 1997 - 2009      Hornall Anderson Design Works, Seattle, WA  
Position: senior designer and art director in a high-paced design, strategy and marketing agency with a concentration in packaging and corporate brand identity.

## EDUCATION

- 2010              Bastyr University, Kenmore, WA; MS in nutrition
- 1997              University of Washington, Seattle, WA; BFA in graphic design, minor in mathematics
- 1992              Healdsburg High School, Healdsburg, CA