

## Advisory Group Application

### Step 1

---

#### Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

---

##### Public Statement

**THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT:** As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group 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	Field not completed.
-------	----------------------

---

First Name	Tess
------------	------

---

Last Name	Winds-Johnson
-----------	---------------

---

Today's Date	11/20/2024
--------------	------------

---

Street Address	
----------------	--

---

City	
------	--

---

Zip	
-----	--

---

Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
-----------------------------------	-----

---

Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
---	----------------------

---

Primary Telephone	
-------------------	--

---

Secondary Telephone	Field not completed.
---------------------	----------------------

---

Email Address	
---------------	--

---

### Step 2

---

1. Name of Advisory	Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee
---------------------	---

## Group

---

Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee	I live or own property on Lummi Island
---	--

---

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 5
---	------------

---

4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
---	----

---

5. 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
---	----

---

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

---

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached
--	----------

---

7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities,	I am, currently, the Associate Director of Workforce Funding at Whatcom Community College. Formerly, I owned the Beach Store Cafe on Lummi Island for seven years and managed it for the three years prior to that. I have a Bachelor's in Sociology from WWU and a Master's in Business with a Hospitality focus from George Washington University.
---	--

and education

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.

I was born and raised on Lummi Island and have experienced the changes and growth of the island first-hand. As a former business owner on the island, and with two self-employed parents also on the island (one a general contractor and the other a therapist), I have experienced and witnessed the ups and downs of business ownership on the island. Now, my husband, children, and I commute daily to and from the island for off-island work and school. I feel strongly about the impact fare increases have had, as a daily commuter, and the adverse effects these tensions have caused within the community. I would like to offer the perspective of a younger, working-class islander; the history of having been deeply connected with the community for my 40 years of life; and build healthy and respectful working relationships with Whatcom County Public Works and Council members through the process. I believe in transparency, honesty, open communication, collaboration, and mutual respect in my personal and professional relationships, and hope to offer this to the Advisory Group.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Charles Bailey 201.572.4508; Tawny Townsend 360.739.6522; Kelly Bashaw 360.220.4006; Brian Gregory 360.223.5432

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Tess Winds-Johnson

Place Signed / Submitted



(Section Break)

# Tess Winds-Johnson

## Contact



## Education

Health Coach Institute,  
Health and Life Coach Certification,  
2024

The George Washington University,  
School of Business,  
Masters of Tourism Admin,  
Washington, DC, 2011

Western Washington University,  
Bachelors of Sociology,  
Bellingham, WA 2005

Whatcom Community College,  
Associates of Arts,  
Bellingham, 2003

## Summary

Demonstrated excellence in leadership collaboration, program administration, developing processes, and adhering to policies within workforce education. Commitment to advancing opportunities to historically marginalized populations with culturally relevant, policy-aligned programming. Self-motivated and disciplined, with proven ability to understand and interpret complex policy issues. Able to manage multiple assignments efficiently, under pressure and meet tight deadlines. Have career-long examples of strong project management, analytical/problem solving, computer literacy, staff supervision, and communication skills.

## Experience

*April 2022-Present*  
Associate Director- Workforce Funding • Whatcom Community College  
Budget writing and program, staff management for BFET,  
Workfirst, Opportunity Grant, Passport to College, and Emergency Funding.

*October 2014-October 2021*  
Owner/Manager • Beach Store Café  
All aspects of running a successful restaurant.

*April 2012-June 2014*  
Manager/F&B Manager • Willows Inn on Lummi Island  
Operations: financial and staffing projections, management and reporting.  
Staffing: hiring, scheduling, training, team building, and problem solving.  
Food and Beverage Service: menu planning and costing, inventory and ordering consolidation, cost control and POS configurations.  
Management: inventory, customer experience, daily reporting, P&L reporting.  
Special Events: planning, purchasing and execution for special events.

*September 2011-April 2012*  
Catering Coordinator • Aramark at Western Washington University  
Event planning, coordination and execution, menu planning and pricing/costing, ordering and inventory control, customer service, staffing.

*May 2008-April 2012*  
Assistant Manager • Chuckanut Brewery and Kitchen  
Management: plan and execute special events and fund-raising, oversee floor operations and POS, ordering, and reporting.  
Customer Service: lead server, problem solving, opening and closing.

## References

---

Available upon request.