



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 *Field not completed.*

First Name Robin

Last Name Thomas

Today's Date 2/11/2020

Street Address 1015 Mason 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? *Field not completed.*

Primary Telephone 206-235-3321

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

Email Address rubiclark@yahoo.com

1. Name of Board or Committee **Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

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

Field not completed.

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

My education and profession is as a Restoration Ecologist. I have not been working in the field for the past five years since I have been caring for my parents. During that time I have moved to Bellingham. I have included my resume in text below. I have been an active commuter cyclist and have been involved in urban planning in Seattle and Whidbey Island as a community activity. I volunteer in community gardens and schools, and am a Master Composter.

Education 1980-1984 B.S. Wildlife Biology Unity College Unity, ME

Selected Work Experience

2010-2015 Whidbey Watershed Stewards Langley, WA Watershed Program Manager

- Develop and manage restoration projects and grants in local watershed program that includes restoration, research and education. Participate in local technical groups including the Shoreline Master Program and Salmon Recovery Programs. Conduct public outreach and education regarding water and wildlife resources. Create service learning projects in schools, and support environmental education center.

2004-2009 People For Puget Sound Seattle, WA Restoration Program Manager

- Managing ecologist for team of 5 scientists and restoration experts in a program to restore Puget Sound shorelines. Responsible for an annual budget ranging from \$125K to \$650k, and overall direction of restoration program. Member of the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership Implementation team, National Association member of Restore America's Estuaries and the Alliance for Puget Sound Shorelines Restoration group. Project management coordination and development include habitat improvements on private and public land from planning through construction and stewardship. Managed volunteer programs and increased participation from 700 to 2,500 volunteers annually. Oversight of grant management and funding for habitat projects and programs.

1999-2004 EarthCorps Seattle, WA Russian Program Coordinator

- Developed a new overseas program for EarthCorps in partnership with the Great Baikal Trail Association, whose mission is to build sustainable eco-tourism infrastructure by introducing service tourism to the Lake Baikal region. Traveled extensively to manage international work camps and all aspects of implementation of the program. Managed federal and private foundation funding and fund development for the project.

Greenway Program Coordinator • Founded a program within EarthCorps with 3 staff

members and 16 Americorps members. Conducted an experiential training program covering the gamut of Environmental Restoration techniques including, habitat management, invasive weed removal, plant propagation, trail building and planning, and riparian habitat improvement. Managed large scale tree planting efforts with volunteers. Responsible for all aspects of program development, training, safety, and budget management.

• Peace Corps Paraguay Environmental Education Specialist • Developed rural environmental education project in Paraguayan district of Natalio. Worked with local farmers to develop better practices for agricultural and forest sustainability. Established youth and women's groups in the local community based on skills sharing, and spread of sustainable agricultural techniques.

1991-1994 Shapiro and Assoc. Seattle, WA Wetlands Scientist • Performed a variety of wetland habitat monitoring and restoration and wetland delineations. Other projects included wildlife monitoring, Thurston and Whatcom County wetlands mapping. Worked as part of a multi-disciplinary team of scientists on projects around the Puget Sound.

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

I believe it is important for people to be able to walk and cycle safely, and that by bringing more active ways to get around we will improve the health of our citizens and the connections we share in Whatcom County. As our population has grown it has become more difficult to ride or walk, and I think this is a great loss to our community. Providing ways for families to ride together and explore our beautiful county will bring more people out to farms, and smaller towns and connect the denser urban center of Bellingham to places like Lynden, Blaine and Everson. I have been impressed by other American cities that have connected their landscapes and they have shown that it is smart economic planning and that people want to use this kind of infrastructure.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Rick Baker, Whidbey Watershed Stewards 949 726-2713
Su Thieda, Earth Corps 206 391-3640

Signature of applicant:

Robin Thomas

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham WA
