

**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2025 3:24 PM  
**To:** Jill Nixon; Jake Logan; Executive; Cathy Halka  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

## Advisory Group Application

### Step 1

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Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

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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.

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Title	Mx.
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First Name	Rhys-Thorvald
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Last Name	Hansen
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Today's Date	11/3/2025
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Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
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Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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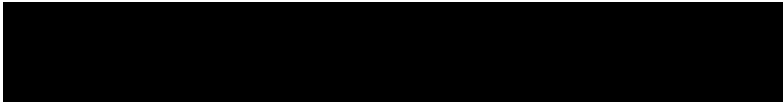
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Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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## Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Group	Point Roberts Community 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 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	
7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education	Please see attached resume.
8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.	I've been a Point Roberts resident for 8 years, and a small business owner here for just as long. I have the lived experience to understand the challenges that come with living and working in an exclave, but also the unique opportunities. I love this community, and wish to see it thrive despite the challenges. After many years of nonprofit board service, and now almost 4 years of experience serving on another County Advisory board, I am eager to put that experience to good work in the community that I live in. I bring experience in community engagement, qualitative research and reporting, as well in

building consensus between parties with opposed interests.  
Thank you for considering my candidacy for this at-large  
position.

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References (please include  
daytime telephone  
number):



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Appointment Requirements    I understand and agree

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Signature of applicant:        Rhys Thorvald Hansen

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Place Signed / Submitted      Point Roberts WA

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(Section Break)

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Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

**RHYS-THORVALD**

**HANSEN** they/them/theirs

**Facilitator and food systems specialist living deeply in transformative enterprise, relational organizing, and mutual liberation in partnership with values-driven organizations**

## Experience

PARALLAX 49 FACILITATION

**Owner** | April 2024-present

- Leads impactful meetings and events using arts-based methodologies; through which our clients gain new insights, challenge conventional thinking, and make informed decisions through thoughtful, dynamic collaboration

IndigenEYEZ & kinSHIFT

**Community, technology, facilitation** | 2020-2023, August 2025-present

- Co-adapted creative arts methodologies for online cultural safety training for teachers
- Led technical delivery of workshops, while modeling community-inclusive practices of right relationship between settlers and Indigenous peoples in online Truth & Reconciliation programs

WHATCOM FOOD NETWORK

**Co-Director** | June 2023-present

**Steering Committee Member** | January 2019- May 2023

- Facilitating community food system events to drive public engagement in local government while building skills for civic participation

HOLLYHOCK LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

**Fundraising and Community Engagement Manager** | September 2022-December 2023

**Contract Conference & Events Producer** | 2019, 2022

- Produced 5 international multi-day conferences for more than 250 participants working in social enterprise and climate advocacy
- 2022 Social Venture Institute received participant rating of 9.1/10
- Led 2022 End of Year campaign, increasing both individual donors and total funds raised by 50%

SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS

**Food & Farming Program Manager** | August 2020- April 2021

- Stepped into project manager role guiding a Washington State-wide multilateral partnership 2 months prior to successful flagship product launch while building a relationship-focused culture
- Lead a 4-person team in producing *Imagining a Just Food Recovery*; the first online Farm to Table Trade Meeting for 200+ food systems professionals in NW Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN JUAN COUNTY EXTENSION

**San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit Coordinator** | December 2017- December 2020

- Collaborated with 8 community partner organizations to execute annual gathering in a multi-island community; leading on event logistics, materials, advertising, sponsorships and reporting

ORCAS FOOD COOPERATIVE

**Board of Directors** | 2015-2018

**Produce & Marketing Manager** | 2015-2017

**Produce Manager** | 2014 - 2015

- Established new retail department in a startup cooperative business, surpassing projected department contribution by 50%, and growing sales to over \$500k in 3.5 years
- Initiated employee representation on governing board of directors to more equitably distribute decision-making and strategic planning opportunities between staff, management, and directors

**Community Engagement**

RESILIENT POINT ROBERTS

**Volunteer Lead for Makers Guild Project Launch** | September 2025-present

**Volunteer Graphic Designer** | 2024

- Co-created the logo & brand design for Resilient Point Roberts: Going Solar Campaign
- Currently leading the development of Point Roberts Makers Guild & Community Studio project

WHATCOM COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COMMITTEE | January 2022-present

**Chair of Whatcom County Food System Committee** | January 2024-present

**Whatcom Food Network Representative on Whatcom County Food Systems Committee** | January 2022-present

- Collaboratively developed the *Whatcom County Food System Plan: A 10-Year Plan for An Equitable and Sustainable Food System* in partnership with other sector representatives on the committee
- Led the Committee in developing annual reports to Whatcom County Council in 2024 & 2025
- Led the Committee in contributing to Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Update in 2025

WHATCOM YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Advisory Committee / 2020-2021

Member at Large / 2020-2021

ORCAS FOOD COOPERATIVE

Board of Directors / 2015 - 2018

Board Development Committee / 2015 - 2018

Strategic Planning Taskforce / 2016 - 2018

**Education**

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

Anthropology, Religious Studies, French Language

SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

Tibetan & Himalayan Studies / Fall 2007

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES TRINIDAD

Caribbean Culture, Music & Religion / Winter & Spring 2007

**Skills**

Public speaking, policy analysis, systems and strategic planning, grant writing, social media marketing, qualitative research and analysis, Office Suite, GSuite, Squarespace, Asana, Slack, and Zoom