



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO WHATCOM COUNTY ADVISORY GROUPS

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and COMPLETE ALL ITEMS

Name: Rud Browne

Date: 12/31/2024

Residential address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address (if different from street address):

Primary Telephone: [REDACTED]

Secondary Telephone:

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

1a. Name of advisory group: **See next page** Planning Commission

1b. Which position are you applying for? **Refer to vacancy list** Planning Commission, County Council District 1

2. Do you meet the requirements of the position for which you're applying?
(If applicable, please refer to vacancy list.) ----- (●) yes () no

3. Which Council district do you live in? ----- (●) One () Two () Three () Four () Five () Not Applicable

4. Have you ever been a member of this advisory group? ----- () yes (●) no
If yes, dates:

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? ----- () yes (●) no
If yes, please explain: I purchase permits like all other residents but am neither a County supplier or employee

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.005(8)) for a paid elected office in
any jurisdiction within the county? ----- () yes (●) no

You may attach a résumé 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.

Entrepreneur, currently focused on increasing buildable land capacity for housing in Whatcom County.

Former owner of an award winning computer reuse and recycling business. Former County Councilmember (2 terms).

Have served on over 20 different community boards and commissions. Resume attached.

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this advisory group: Constituents want the County to increase housing availability. The Planning Commission will assist the Council with the next draft of WC Comprehensive Plan
I believe my recent experience trying to increase WC buildable lands capacity would be helpful, and the Planning Commission would benefit from a member who worked on the last Plan. I have the time and expect to be available to attend all PC meetings.

References (please include daytime telephone number): Whatcom County Association of Realtors (see letter of support)
Ali Taysi (AVT Consulting, land use consultant), Troy Muljat (Commerical Realtor), Dan Dunne (CAZ Construction)

My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is true and correct. If appointed, I will comply with the Council & Executive Expectations of Advisory Group Members and complete Open Government Training as required by RCW 42.30.205.

Signature of applicant:

See next page for additional instructions.

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the above information 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.

Rud Browne – Biography

Rud is the CEO of Ryanna Capital which is currently focused on increasing the buildable lands supply within Whatcom County, a critical first step in adding more housing within a community desperate for additional residential options.

Rud is a proven entrepreneur. He started recycling scrap metal when he was 10 years old. At 23 he taught himself computer programming and then spent 30 years in the hi-tech sector. At 30 Rud started The Ryzex Group and built it into an innovative multinational mobile technology solutions company with \$75 million in annual revenues, which employed 360 people in five countries. He moved to Whatcom County in 1994.

Rud promoted the recycling ethic to the point that the Ryzex' Bellingham facility (with 160 personnel) was able to eliminate all waste. The lessons learned became the basis of the popular local program called Towards Zero Waste, which has resulted in over 300 organizations reducing their waste by at least 50%.

In 2013 Rud was elected to the Whatcom County Council where he served two terms. During his tenure he served as Council Chair, Chair of the Finance and Administrative Services Committee, as a member of the Planning and Development Committee, the Public Works Committee, the County Health Board and as the Council representative on several other external boards and commissions.

Rud is currently a member of the World Presidents Organization (a global organization of CEO's), the Rotary Club of Bellingham, and the Bellingham Angels Group. In 2004 Rud was recognized as the Whatcom County Businessperson of the Year and in 2007 as a winner of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Under Rud's leadership, Ryzex received numerous awards, including "Best Places to Work," the "Green Business of the Year" and was recognized by Inc. Magazine as the number two Green business in the USA. A partial list of previously held board positions are:

- Bellingham City Club
- Bellingham Public Development Authority
- Brigid Collins Child Abuse and Family Support Center
- Entrepreneurs Organization (Vancouver), as Vice President for Ethics
- Northwest Economic Council
- St. Paul's Academy
- US Bank of WA Advisory Board
- WWU College of Business and Economics (CBE) Advisory Board
- Whatcom County Ethics Commission
- Whatcom Community Foundation
- Young Presidents Organization, Pacific Northwest chapter (as Chairman)

He has also served as an Aircrew member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Rud's passions are his family, friends, flying light aircraft and community service.

December 26, 2024

Whatcom County Council
Whatcom County Courthouse
311 Grand Ave., Ste. 105
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: Rud Browne, Applicant
Whatcom County Planning Commission

Dear Council Members:

The Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® is aware that vacancies exist on the Whatcom County Planning Commission, an appointed commission responsible for assisting the Whatcom Planning Department in carrying out the comprehensive plan and for recommending and adopting development regulations and codes in fulfillment of that responsibility. Based on his experience on the Whatcom County Council and, more recently, his work to bring additional housing to Whatcom County, Whatcom County REALTORS® supports Rud Browne's application for appointment to the commission.

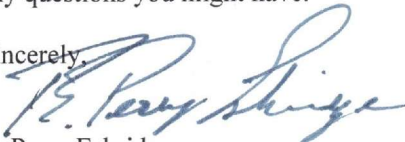
Rud Browne's service on the County Council for eight years provides him a unique insight into the legislative procedures of Whatcom County government. During his service as council member, Rud considered, with his council colleagues, hundreds of regulations ranging from zoning, to subdivisions, to water resource use in our county. Rud brought his passion for solving complex problems to each discussion and decision about the adoption of various code provisions and, more importantly, gained valuable insight into how each provision worked to shape our county now and in the future.

As a landowner seeking to put his own land into housing production, Rud has now spent the better part of three years navigating and working with Whatcom land use and development codes. His recent experience has put Rud's theoretical knowledge of the code into practical application, an application exposing the inconsistencies and difficulties development applicants experience when working with Whatcom County's code.

Rud's theoretical and practical knowledge of the Planning Department and the code the department implements is the experience Whatcom citizens need from planning commissioners advising department staff. Stakeholders, staff, and this council recognize the need for clear code provisions that incorporate current practice but also incorporate elusive administrative interpretations and policy documents. Rud is the person who will bring his substantial knowledge to bear on those efforts and, we are certain, will result in a better code, a code that adopts clear provisions and certainty in results, a code that implements our comprehensive planning efforts. For this reason, the REALTORS® urge you to take favorable action on his application and appoint Mr. Browne to the Planning Commission.

Thank you for your prompt and favorable action on Rud's appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



R. Perry Eskridge
Government Affairs Director

cc: Board
File
Rud Browne