

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2018-036

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	SM	12/13/17	RECEIVED JAN 09 2018 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	January 16, 2018	Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	<i>MS</i>	<i>1.8.18</i>			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT: *Concurrent reappointment of Susan Gribbin, City Appointment, to the Bellingham-Whatcom County Housing Authorities Board of Commissioners.*

ATTACHMENTS: *Commissioner application for Susan Gribbin (2012)*

SEPA review required?	() Yes	() NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing ?	() Yes	() NO
SEPA review completed?	() Yes	() NO	Requested Date:		

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

Information only:

County Executive Jack Louws reappoints Susan Gribbin for a second term to the Whatcom County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. There is a concurrent reappointment of Ms. Gribbin by the City of Bellingham Mayor to the Bellingham Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number:

Please Note: *Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.*



BELLINGHAM WHATCOM COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Commissioner Application

Name Susan Gribbin Date 10/5/12

Address 3006 Victor Street Bellingham WA 98225

Email s.gribbin@comcast.net Phone 360/647-0859 h
360/383-9707 w
360/223-6144 c

Please answer the questions below completely. You may attach additional pages to this form.

1. Why do you wish to serve on the Housing Authorities Board of Commissioners?

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Bellingham Whatcom County Housing Authorities board of directors. Besides the chance to learn more about our community I especially hope to contribute to the team whose work has enriched the lives of many members of our community by making housing affordable and available.

2. What personal strengths would you bring to the Board?

I am collegial and strive to build consensus in a group. Coworkers often look to me to provide perspective and alternate views of people and situations that can help move a process or decision forward.

3. What do you think are the critical issues facing affordable housing in this community and what role do you see the Housing Authority and others playing?

Capital, land, and partnerships that can create viable long term housing investments

4. Please list your community volunteer experiences.

Currently I serve as a volunteer on the City of Bellingham's Community Development Advisory Board. Previously I have been involved in community engagement activities targeting transportation, physical activity and community building as part of my work in a community health coalition.

5. List any experiences you have on policy-making boards and how they would contribute to your being an effective Board member.

The earliest board experience I had was a non-voting student member to my community college board of directors. The training provided to me in this role has served me well since. Specifically, that decisions once made are everyone's, personal viewpoints notwithstanding. Once a decision is reached each member 'owns' it and presents it fairly to their respective constituents.

6. How do you see the role of a Commissioner in relationship to the role of an Executive Director and staff?

Generally I would understand this to mean the difference between **operations** – doing the work and **policy** – fair and useful guidelines to use when doing the work. I would expect that commissioners are NOT involved in operational decisions or activities on any ongoing basis.

7. Using information on Page 4, *Commissioner Selection Guidelines*, please comment on your qualifications for each guideline.

- a. Demonstrated leadership capabilities.

My background in the nonprofit community reflects an individual who seeks out challenges while hoping to improve the lives of members of my community. I have served in various roles including coalition coordinator, program director, marketing manager and more. I have been especially successful in launching new initiatives and delivering on promised goals.

- b. Knowledge of and commitment to affordable housing

I am pleased that Whatcom County has adopted housing first. Our community has come a long way since while working at the local crisis services we provide one-way tickets to homeless individuals. The face of homeless people has migrated from the mythic lonely male to whole families without shelter. Providing shelter and support to keep people in place in our community is much preferable.

As a parent of two disabled daughters I have valued the opportunity the housing authority has made available to them as they make their way in the adult world. Both receive SSI – a \$698 monthly entitlement and without a HUD Section 8 housing voucher their independent living would be impossible. Overall, I am impressed with the investments made by the housing authority and its partners in building affordable and desirable projects.

- c. Time commitment
I am able to meet on the third Tuesday of each month and have flexibility in my work schedule to accommodate further engagements.
- d. Policy, planning, budgeting experience
I have an MBA from Western Washington University and a Project Management Certificate from the University of Washington. In addition to educational experiences I have been responsible to plan, budget and provide due diligence to projects ranging from marketing, to mentoring to leadership training. As the author of a number of grants I am able to put good use developing correspondence between plans, budges and program measurement activities.
- e. Collaboration and interpersonal skills
My work with collaboration increased significantly when I was the program director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Washington. At that time the Whatcom County Readiness to Learn Consortium was becoming established as an open door to our county's seven school districts. I was able to leverage my time and expertise to help solidify the consortium while successfully authoring and competing for grants related to mentoring. I very much appreciate the value of partnerships in achieving results – I can't think of any other way to create something meaningful and, hopefully, lasting.
My work in communications has honed both my skills at persuasion and presentation. I am a capable communicator in conversation, in writing and in visual communications.
- f. Board perspective.
My involvement with the Community Development Advisory Board is my most recent example of respectfully presenting ideas, offering a different opinion, or just questioning fundamental rationales. I believe members of that board would agree that I treat others respectfully and can more forward to achieve results.