

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BAINBRIDGE ISLAND CITY COUNCIL POSITION #4

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Monica Aufrecht

Residence Address [Redacted] Jacolet LN NW

Home Phone (Job) [Redacted] Work/Cell Phone _____

E-Mail [Redacted]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Bainbridge Island on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Bainbridge Island City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Bainbridge Island community. Address its relevance to the position of Bainbridge Island City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as Bainbridge Island City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return this form, your cover letter, resume and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk at Bainbridge Island City Hall (280 Madison Avenue North) **no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, April 13, 2018**. Applications received after 4:00 pm will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Christine Brown, City Clerk
Councilmember Recruitment
280 Madison Avenue North
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110**

April 13, 2018

Dear Bainbridge Island City Council,

I am writing to apply for Position #4 of Bainbridge Island's City Council.

When I moved to Bainbridge Island in the spring of 2012, it felt like I was finally coming home. The trees and mountains reminded me of my childhood in Alaska, but the neighbors were friendlier, the weather much warmer, and I didn't have to worry as much about bears.

I had already been living in Seattle for several years while I earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Washington, specializing in both the philosophy of science and environmental ethics. My research has focused on navigating environmental challenges in the face of competing interests, and on weighing scientific evidence and decision-making processes.

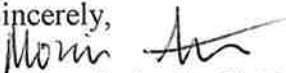
I have taught philosophy at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Linfield College in Oregon, Seattle Central College, and at the University of Washington. I currently teach environmental ethics and biomedical ethics for Bellevue College. At the moment, I teach entirely online, which means that I spend my days on Bainbridge Island. In addition to my teaching and research, I have written a textbook on clear and logical thinking, aimed at helping people think through situations where one must consider evidence.

My research and teaching has helped me develop my passion for the environment and for social justice. It has also brought me closer to my goal of understanding many different sides of every story, and of learning to live with ambiguity. Over time, I have learned that if you want to create effective change in the world, a great place to start is at the local level, and through careful listening and compassion.

I am excited by the opportunity to serve my community and to learn more about my home at the same time. I recognize that I have much to learn about the specific issues on the island. The City Council has been dealing with important, and at times controversial, issues. Many of these – traffic, housing shortages, urban development – are due to new arrivals like me: young parents who are attracted to the beauty and rural small-town feel of Bainbridge, plus retirees coming for similar reasons. As Bainbridge continues to grow, it is important that we newcomers help to preserve those very things that made us want to move here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Monica Aufrecht, Ph.D.

Philosophy Instructor

Logic, Philosophy of Science, Environmental Ethics

MONICA AUFRECHT

acolet Lane
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Phone: (206)
Email:

Teacher, Philosopher, and Parent

I teach and write about Environmental Ethics, Biomedical Ethics, Gender Inequality, the Philosophy of Science and Critical Thinking the, all of which is rooted in understanding the forms and processes involved in understanding evidence and reasoning.

Academic Employment

2016-2018 **Instructor, Bellevue College**, Bellevue, Washington
2014 **Instructor, The University of Washington**, Seattle, Washington
2011, 2014 **Instructor, Seattle Central College**, Seattle, Washington
2011- 2012 **Assistant Professor, Linfield College**, McMinnville, Oregon
2010 - 2011 **Lecturer, Simon Fraser University**, Burnaby, British Columbia
2003 - 2010 **Teaching Associate, The University of Washington**, Seattle, Washington
2002 - 2003 **Special Education Tutor, Vannoy Elementary School**, Castro Valley, California

Classes taught include:

Practical Reasoning and Critical Thinking	Environmental Ethics
Logic	Philosophy of Science
Objectivity	Biomedical Ethics
Introduction to Ethics	Global Health and Justice
Fundamentals of Philosophy	

Education

2010 Ph.D. University of Washington, Philosophy (2005 - 2010)
2005 M.A. University of Washington, Philosophy (2003 - 2005)
2000 B.A. Wellesley College, History and Philosophy of Science, *cum laude*

Publications

2017 **"Reichenbach Falls—And Rises? Reconstructing the Discovery/Justification Distinction."** *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* 31.2: 151-176.
2017 **"Leave only Footprints? Reframing Climate Change, Environmental Stewardship, and Human Impact."** *Ethics, Policy & Environment* 20.1: 84-102.
2014 **"No More Disposable Love: Expanding the Bechdel Test for Movies,"** *Feminist Wire* 17.2: 51-74 -- <http://thefeministwire.com/2014/04/no-more-disposable-love/>
2013 **"Dr. Aufrecht's Pocket Guide to Critical Thinking,"** -- <http://www.amazon.com/Aufrechts-Pocket-Guide-Critical-Thinking/dp/1492233919>
2012 **"Rethinking 'Greening of Hate': Climate Emissions, Immigration, and the Last Frontier,"** *Ethics and the Environment* 17.2: 51-74
www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/ethicsenviro.17.2.51
2011 **"Climate Change and Structural Emissions: Moral Obligations at the Individual Level,"** *International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 25.2: 201- 213. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5840/ijap201125218>
2011 **"The Context Distinction: Controversies over Feminist Philosophy of Science,"** *European Journal of Philosophy of Science*. 1: 373-392. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s13194-011-0031-9>

Monica Aufrecht

Community Service

- 2017-present Committee member of the Bellevue College Sustainability Curriculum Committee
- 2016 Volunteer with CarbonWA, worked on “Yes on I-732” Carbon Tax initiative
- 2015 Volunteer on the Rotary Auction Green Team
- 2014 Committee member for the Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District of Bainbridge Island, Dog Action Committee
- 2012 Volunteer for the 23rd District office of the Democratic Party
- 2012 Linfield College Faculty Advisor; New Orleans wetlands restoration spring break project

Awards and Honors

- 2011 Early Career Scholar Prize for Best Paper, Applied Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE)
- 2010 Research Fellow Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Germany
- 2009 Graduate Fellow, Science Studies Network, University of Washington
- 2005 & 2008 Philosophy Department Teaching Award, University of Washington
- 2009□ Dissertation Fellowship, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Washington
- 2007 - 2008 Lead Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Washington□
- 2005 Graduate Student Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention□ National Science Foundation

References

Dan Hamlin

Parks Services Superintendent
Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District, Bainbridge Island
dan@biparks.org
206.245.7385

OiFan Channie Peters

Democratic Party Volunteer Coordinator, 23rd Legislative District, Bainbridge Island
ocpeters@bainbridgevoter.org
206.963.7702

W. Russ Payne

Chair of the Philosophy Department
Bellevue College
wpayne@bellevuecollege.edu
425.564.2079

More references available upon request

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Bainbridge Island City Councilmember?

If we want to create positive change the world, then the local level is one of the best places to start. As a relative newcomer to Bainbridge Island, I am interested in giving back to my community, learning more about the issues facing my new home, and preserving the things that make it a wonderful place to live as we plan for the next few thousand new neighbors. The one and half year interim term position is a great way to do that. I look forward to using my skills to help with the issues before the City Council.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

My skills are in careful listening, seeing multiple points of view, and helping groups of people come to a consensus on complex issues. My training is in Western analytic philosophy, which is grounded in critical thinking and analysis, and involves the careful study of ethics. Critical thinking is useful for evaluating evidence, recognizing and avoiding mistakes in reasoning, and determining the best path forward given the current constraints. Among other things, ethics is about ensuring you are respecting the rights of everyone affected by a decision (affected not just now, but into the future as well).

I also have spent over ten years living in intentional communities, where we made decisions using the consensus model. Contrary to popular belief, the consensus model (when it is working at its best) is not about compromise. Rather, consensus is about brainstorming together the best solutions for the community as a whole. This does not mean holding in mind what you want for yourself, where each person promotes their own interests and hopes to find compromise in the end. Nor does consensus mean you think about the needs of each individual, and try to balance them. Instead, consensus means you focus on the needs of the group *as a group*. Everyone then works together to reach the goals of the group, while still fulfilling the needs and upholding the rights of individual members. It can be creative and rewarding work and it demands looking past the obvious solutions.

Although I do not expect the City Council to run on a consensus model, I do believe that the consensus mindset had been helpful for me when working on community projects. It helps me set aside my own particular needs, recognizing them as important but only some among many, and it helps me focus on the best decisions for the community as a whole.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

A. Housing. The people with historical roots in the community; the people who work on the island; young families attracted by the schools. They all play an important role in our community, and keeping them living on and investing in Bainbridge benefits us all.

I do not have a pre-packaged solution to this issue, nor do I know the list of solutions to serve the next wave of people moving to the island.

What I do know is that my family and I have already benefited from past decisions, as we live in a “cottage home” development just north of City Hall. There are now eleven families living on the land once occupied by one family. I’ve met and spoken to day care workers and others who have applied for the Community Land Trust development on Ferncliff. I walk through and say hello to the residents of the mobile home park as I walk to the Farmer’s Market.

I have only a cursory familiarity with the proposals to increase affordable housing in the Comprehensive Plan. I look forward to working with those who have been thinking about and working on this issue, to keep moving the process forward.

B. Traffic and traffic safety. There has been much discussion about ferry traffic on 305. Like many issues on Bainbridge Island, transportation is entangled with several other issues. However, we might be able to use that to our benefit, since solving the housing problem could go a long way to ameliorating traffic.

In particular, the 2002 license plate study¹ implied that nearly half of the “ferry traffic” heading off island is actually people working on the island who cannot afford to live here – school teachers, grocery clerks, and other low- or middle-wage workers who are essential to keeping Bainbridge Island running. Creating local housing opportunities cuts down the number of cars crossing Agate Pass during afternoon and evening rush hours.

Public transportation, bike trails and other solutions as discussed in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan also need to be considered as part of a comprehensive solution. I am in support of the Sound to Olympics bike trail that is currently underway, though, like many Bainbridge Island residents, I am concerned about how it has been implemented. The controversial clearing of trees at the start of the trail highlighted the need for oversight to ensure that the process and product reflect the true vision of the city council, as well as the community’s vision as outlined in the comprehensive plan.

¹ Referenced in Ch 6 of the 1998 Winslow Master Plan on pg 47.
<http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1603>

C. Pollution to Puget Sound and aquifer recharge. Not only is traffic a quality of life issue, it is also a clean air and Climate Change issue. What we do on Bainbridge Island matters. This island has a tumultuous past with water pollution into the Puget Sound. We have already taken essential steps to fix that past and to plan for the future, such as the ongoing clean-up of the Wyckoff Creosote Plant, fixing the Eagle Harbor sewer pipes, and monitoring surface run-off. We need to continue working on these projects, and raising support and awareness of their importance, not just for us on the Island, but for the welfare of the entire Puget Sound community.

The City Council's recent attention to urban development has been an important step for maintaining and improving aquifer recharge. Working with community members through education and having a transparent decision making process both help community members be aware of the long-term issues involving water and urban growth on our island. Through inclusive decision-making, we as a community can make informed planning decisions that look to the long-term, big picture health of our community, and that are consistent with the values laid out in the comprehensive plan.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Bainbridge Island community. Address its relevance to the position of Bainbridge Island City Councilmember.

My work on the Metropolitan Parks and Recreation Dog Action Committee when I first arrived at Bainbridge came out of the conviction that if I want to be part of the conversation, and certainly if I want to criticize, then I need to be willing to work toward solutions. I do not have a dog, but when I realized that a dog park was needed here, I wanted to make sure it would be safe and well-used, and would truly fit the community's need. I researched national standards for excellent dog parks, and helped design the Strawberry Hill Dog Park. I plan to apply the same standards to myself as a City Councilmember: to work toward the best solutions to the problems put before me, whether the problems affect me or not.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as Bainbridge Island City Councilmember?

My expectation for the limited time of this City Council seat is to add my area of expertise (researching and analyzing data, listening to areas of concern, structuring decision making processes) to help move forward existing projects. I would also like to help promote transparency, making it easier for community members to be aware of city council business and to participate.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

Like others, I was attracted to Bainbridge Island because of its small-town feel, strong schools, natural setting, and historical connection.

My partner, an islander since 2002, talks about how KiDiMu, the Harvest Festival, the Transmitter Building, IslandWood, and Mora Ice Cream are “new” additions. In my short time here, it has been exciting to see the remodel of Winslow Way, the Museum of Art, the Strawberry Hill Dog Park, Owen’s Park and the construction at T&C.

I envision even more additions over the coming decades, but the goal is to retain the attractive aspects that drew me here as we transition to an island with a larger, denser, and more diverse population.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I live a modern lifestyle, with a blended family. My partner and I spend half the time with just our daughter, and half the time with the addition of my partner’s three sons. My partner and I were married on the beach at Hawley Cove, overlooking the ferry and Mt. Rainier. Our children attend Bainbridge High School, Sakai Intermediate School, and Montessori Country School. Our family takes part in ferry commutes, island soccer, swimming, KiDiMu, and much more.