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Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #3305

Date Submitted: 1/13/2020

Applications for Boards and Commissions are accepted year-round. As seats become vacant, the City of West St. Paul will consider all active applications for appointment. Applications are considered active for one year from submission date. To remain active after one year, applicants must re-apply.

To be considered for seats set to expire March 2020 on the Planning Commission (3 seats), Environmental Committee (1 seat), and Park & Recreation Advisory Committee (3 seats), the application deadline is Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

First Name*

James

Last Name*

Heaney

Address1*

Address2

City*

West Saint Paul

State*

MN

Zip*

55118

Email*

james.j.heaney@gmail.com

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Work Phone

Public Commission Directory*

Please indicate the phone number(s) you would like published in our Public Commission Directory if you are appointed. Permission to release your phone number to the public is a requirement of the Data Practices Act.



Home



Cell



Work

Mark up to 3 committees you are interested in serving on*

- Charter Commission
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Environmental / Greening Committee
- Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization
- NDC4 (Cable Commission)

If you are interested in more than one committee, please list them in order of most desirable to least desirable.

More Info

[Learn more about each Board and Commission here...](#)

How Many Years Have You Lived in West St. Paul*

2.5

Ward

2

Precinct

1

Employment / Job Title*

Software Engineer II

Employer Name & Address*

University of Saint Thomas 2115 Summit Avenue Saint Paul, MN, 55105

List your past and present civic activities or memberships which may be helpful to this committee.*

In other cities, I have served within local political party organizations as precinct chair / vice-chair / secretary, where I engaged in some Robert's Rules-driven floor fights. More recently, I served two years as statewide secretary of a very marginal political party managed to collect about 700 votes statewide in 2016. In the latter capacity, I played a key role in drafting the party's bylaws. The relationship between organizational rules and the people those rules serve (and shape) fascinates me, and, since I no longer have a home in any Minnesota political party, I'd like to contribute in other ways.

List two or three goals that you would like to see accomplished during your term on a commission.*

Electoral reform seems to be on the Charter Commission's brain right now. That's something I would very much like to see happen, but with care taken to ensure that we are adopting the *best* elections process, not simply a faddish one. I'm very interested in the idea of equitable taxation and exercise of power. The City Council and Charter Commission have recently been thinking a lot about equity when it comes to assessments (esp. sidewalk assessments), and that's been great. I think there's room to consider whether the City's zoning and general-fund revenue authorities are also based on fair and impartial principles -- although the Charter currently has very little to say about the former.

How did you become interested in serving on a committee?*

I read the City Council minutes pretty religiously (or, at least, I did until the West St. Paul Reader started posting recaps) and noticed how important the committees are to municipal governance. A Facebook Neighbors group discussion of ranked-choice voting made me suspect I might have some value on the Charter Committee. (I'd be useless on several of the others.)