

Print

Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #3579

Date Submitted: 11/17/2020

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.

First Name*

Andrew

Last Name*

Olson

Address1*

Address2

City*

West St Paul

State*

MN

Zip*

55118

Email*

andybobolson@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*

3 1/2

Ward

2

Precinct

1

Employment / Job Title*

Legal/Management Analyst

Employer Name & Address*

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board 190 Centennial Office Building 658 Cedar St St Paul, MN 55155

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

I have been a member of the League of Women Voters of Dakota County since February 2017 and have served in volunteer leadership roles including as the League's Advocacy/Program Coordinator and later as the League's Visibility Coordinator. Throughout that time I have helped organize multiple candidate forums, public forums concerning various public policy issues, and meetings featuring speakers addressing issues of concern to the League's members. I have helped monitor proposals being considered by the Dakota County Board, the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Legislature, and various city councils and school boards, in order to help the League and members of the public take advantage of opportunities to provide input. For the past couple of years I have been primarily responsible for the League's external communications including its website and social media accounts.

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

I would like the Charter Commission to consider clarifying portions of the City Charter that explain what constitutes a quorum of the Council and what constitutes an affirmative vote of members of the Council. My concern is that Sections 3.03 and 3.04 do not specify whether the threshold for what constitutes a quorum or a majority of councilmembers is modified if one or more councilmembers is legally disqualified from participating in a meeting or voting on a matter. Those sections likewise do not specify whether a councilmember's decision to recuse herself or himself or abstain from voting on a matter alters those thresholds. Also, Section 3.03 refers to elected members, which could be problematic if the vote of an appointed councilmember would change the outcome of a decision. I would like the Charter Commission to consider proposing revisions to various aspects of Chapter V, regarding initiatives and referenda, which conflict with Minnesota Statutes section 205.10. For example, the petition signature threshold set forth in state statute is 20 percent of the number of votes cast in the previous municipal election, while the threshold set forth in Sections 5.05, 5.06, 5.10, and 5.11 of the City Charter is 10 percent. Similarly, I think the Charter Commission should consider proposing the modification of section 5.07 of the City Charter to provide that a special election held for the purpose of voting on an initiative will not be held between 30 and 45 days after final action on a proposed ordinance, as is currently required, unless a uniform election date set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 205.10, subdivision 3a, happens to fall within that 15-day time period. Another goal would be to help craft a proposal to modify ward boundaries to the extent necessary to ensure that the population of each ward is relatively equal following the release of Census block data in 2021.

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

I am interested in serving on the Charter Commission for a couple reasons. First, I am generally interested in the mechanics of good governance and I feel that my skills and knowledge as an attorney would help me to be a productive member of the Commission. Second, in the time that I have lived in West St. Paul there have been instances in which I feel that a lack of clarity within the City Charter has made it more difficult for residents to understand the functioning of the Council and other aspects of city governance.