



Charter Commission

Report

To: **Charter Commission**
Through: **Nate Burkett, City Manager**
From: **Kori Land, City Attorney**
Date: **June 9, 2022**

Filling Vacancies

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City has 2 vacancies on the Charter Commission left by Aaron VanMoorlehem and Jim McKie. In addition, 2 of the existing members (Commissioners Friesen and Probst) have terms that expired in Feb. 2022 and have each submitted their applications to renew their seats on the Commission.

We recommend that you review the applications and set a date for interviewing candidates to fill the vacancies.

In addition, we recommend reappointing Commissioners Friesen and Probst to another 4-year term.

FISCAL IMPACT:

| | | Amount |
|--------------------|--|---------------|
| Fund: | | n/a |
| Department: | | |
| Account: | | |

ATTACHMENTS:

- Roster
- Interview Questions

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Make Appointment Recommendations to the Chief Judge to reappointment Commissioners Friesen and Probst
Set a date for interviews

WEST ST. PAUL CHARTER COMMISSION

| NAME OF COMMISSIONER | PHONE | EMAIL | TERM EXPIRES | WARD NUMBER | DATE APPOINTED BY COURT |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Friesen, Andrea | 651.457.4008 | afriesen.wsp@gmail.com | 02.28.22 | 3 | 03.01.18 |
| Fromm, Douglas (Vice Chair) | 651.453.1511 | dougfromm@comcast.net | 02.28.25 | 1 | 03.01.21 |
| Haubrich, Tim | 612.209.8571 | timhaubrich@comcast.net | 02.28.24 | 3 | 12.23.20 |
| Johnson, Kimetha (KaeJae) | 651.979.5724 | kimethajohnson7@gmail.com | 02.28.24 | 1 | 01.25.21 |
| McKie, James | 651.248.6534 | papamckie@earthlink.net | 02.28.22 | 2 | 03.01.18 |
| Probst, James | 651.230.0084 | jimwstpaul@aol.com | 02.28.22 | 2 | 03.01.18 |
| Schempp, Matthew | 651.307.7485 | mschempp@gmail.com | 02.28.25 | 3 | 03.01.21 |
| Tessmer, Mark | 612.910.1018 651.457.2909 (Camelot Cleaners) | mtessmer1467@comcast.net | 02.28.24 | 2 | 12.23.20 |
| Valento, Tim | 651.457.9140 | t.valento@comcast.net | 02.28.24 | 3 | 12.23.20 |
| VanMoorlehem, Aaron (Chair) | 651.455.8444 | aaron.vanmoorlehem@edmn.org | 02.28.22 | 1 | 03.01.18 |
| Vavreck, Karen | 651.253.8278 | obsobor@yahoo.com | 02.28.25 | 2 | 03.01.21 |

Updated: 01.27.21

COUNCIL LIAISON

Councilmember
Lisa Eng-Sarne
651.757.7090

lengsarne@wspmn.gov

**RECORDING
SECRETARY**

Attorney Kori Land

COMMISSION MEETS

As Called

TERM LIMIT

None

CHARTER COMMISSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In regards to City governance are there any issues, concerns, or changes that you think the Charter Commission should address?
2. Have you served on any other Commissions or committees in WSP or any of the other cities you have lived in?
3. Have you lived in a City that was a Charter City?
4. What are some of your strengths or best qualities that could be helpful to the Charter Commission?
5. Why did you select the Charter Commission?
6. Is the Charter Commission still your top choice?

Print

Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #4618

Date Submitted: 5/23/2022

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*

Andrea

Last Name*

Friesen

Address1*

970 Seminole Ave

Address2

City*

West Saint Paul

State*

MN

Zip*

55118

Email*

[REDACTED]

Home Phone

[REDACTED]

Cell Phone

[REDACTED]

Work Phone

[REDACTED]

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*

Ward

Precinct

Employment / Job Title*

Employer Name & Address*

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

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

Creating a diverse commission Listen to and support the council goals

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

When I realized that my skillset around legal documents had value to add to the position. I also wanted to see younger and more engaged representation across all of our city government.

Print

Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #4402

Date Submitted: 1/31/2022

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*

James

Last Name*

Probst

Address1*

1592 Bellows St

Address2

City*

W. St. Paul

State*

MN

Zip*

55118

Email*

[REDACTED]

Home Phone

[REDACTED]

Cell Phone

[REDACTED]

Work Phone

N/A

Public Commission Directory*

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More Info

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

Ward

Precinct

Employment / Job Title*

Employer Name & Address*

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

Board Member of the South Robert Street Business Association
President of the WSP Kiwanis Club
Present member of the WSP Charter Commission

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

Maintain a true and transparent city government
Help citizens better understand and work with our city government

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

Current member of the charter commission

Print

Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #4626

Date Submitted: 5/28/2022

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*

32 Amelia Ave

Address2

City*

West St Paul

State*

MN

Zip*

55118

Email*

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

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More Info

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

Ward

Precinct

Employment / Job Title*

Employer Name & Address*

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 (LWV) of Dakota County since February 2017 and have served in volunteer leadership roles including as the Advocacy/Program Coordinator and later as the Visibility Coordinator. Throughout that time I have helped organize multiple candidate forums, forums concerning various public policy issues, and meetings featuring speakers addressing issues of concern to members and the general public. 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 LWV of Dakota County and members of the public take advantage of opportunities to provide input. For the past few years I have been primarily responsible for external communications including the LWV of Dakota County website and social media accounts. I have also served as an election judge in Minneapolis since 2018.

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

1. I would like the Charter Commission to consider clarifying portions of the City Charter that explain what constitutes a quorum of the Council. My concern is that Sections 3.03 and 3.04 do not specify whether the threshold for what constitutes a quorum 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 the decision of a councilmember to recuse herself or himself or abstain from voting on a matter, when not legally required to do so, alters that threshold. 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. 2. 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. The date of a special election generally must be one of the dates specified in Minnesota Statutes section 205.10, subdivision 3a, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 205.02, subdivision 2. 3. I would like the Charter Commission to recommend repealing Section 5.02, which prohibits compensation paid to petition circulators. That provision is unconstitutional pursuant to Meyer v. Grant, a 1988 United States Supreme Court decision in which the Court struck down a Colorado statute prohibiting the payment of petition circulators on First Amendment grounds.

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

I am interested in serving on the Charter Commission for two primary reasons. First, I am generally interested in the mechanics of good governance. I feel that my experience, skills, and knowledge as an attorney and engaged citizen 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.

