



CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
MUNICIPAL CENTER
July 28, 2022
5:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adopt Agenda
4. Consent
 - A. Meeting Minutes June 9, 2022
5. New Business
 - A. Charter Commission Interviews (15-minute increments)
 - B. Election of Officers
6. Old Business
7. Set Next Meeting Date
8. Adjourn

To: **Chair Fromm and Members of the Charter Commission**
Through: **Nate Burkett, City Manager**
From: **Kori Land, City Attorney**
Date: **July 28, 2022**

Charter Commission Regarding Appointments

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are currently two vacancies on the Charter Commission and in addition, Commissioner VanMoorlehem has indicated he is not interested in being reappointed, although he will serve until his seat is filled.

We recommend that you conduct interviews, consider the applicants and decide if you want to recommend up to three of the candidates for appointment to the vacant seats. An applicant must receive an affirmative vote of a majority of those present in order to be recommended for appointment. Once your recommendations are approved, we will prepare and submit the Order to the Chief Judge of the First Judicial District, who has the authority to appoint the Charter Commission members.

The interview questions that were used in the last appointment process is attached. The interviews are scheduled in alphabetical order and in 15 minute increments.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Roster
- Applications
- Interview Questions

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct interviews and discuss recommendations for appointment. You may recommend up to 3 candidates for appointment.

WEST ST. PAUL CHARTER COMMISSION

NAME OF COMMISSIONER	TERM EXPIRES	WARD NUMBER	DATE APPOINTED BY COURT
Friesen, Andrea	02.28.26	3	03.01.18
Fromm, Douglas (Chair)	02.28.25	1	03.01.21
Haubrich, Tim	02.28.24	3	12.23.20
Johnson, Kimetha (KaeJae)	02.28.24	1	01.25.21
VACANT	02.28.26		
Probst, James	02.28.26	2	03.01.18
Schempp, Matthew (Vice Chair)	02.28.25	3	03.01.21
Tessmer, Mark	02.28.24	2	12.23.20
Valento, Tim	02.28.24	3	12.23.20
VanMoorlehem, Aaron	02.28.22	1	03.01.18
VACANT	02.28.25		

Updated: 07.19.22

COUNCIL LIAISON	MEMBER TERM	TERM LIMIT
Councilmember Lisa Eng-Sarne 651.757.7090 lengsarne@wspmn.gov	4 Years	None

RECORDING SECRETARY
Attorney Kori Land

COMMISSION MEETS
As Called

Print

Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #4772

Date Submitted: 7/19/2022

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*

Michelle

Last Name*

Ball

Address1*

[Redacted Address]

Address2

[Empty Address2 Field]

City*

West Saint Paul

State*

MN

Zip*

55118

Email*

[Redacted Email]

Home Phone

[Empty Home Phone Field]

Cell Phone

[Empty Cell Phone Field]

Work Phone

[Empty Work Phone Field]

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.*

Help city residents understand the city is a charter city and what that means. Help investigate on how the charter could better serve those residents.

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

Neighbor participation reminding me that change can't happen without participation.

Print

Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #4649

Date Submitted: 6/7/2022

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*

Chris

Last Name*

Gevara

Address1*

[REDACTED]

Address2

[REDACTED]

City*

West St 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

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- 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

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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.*

Member and Chair of WSP
Environmental Committee Head
Election Judge for WSP Created
historical display that was exhibited
in City Hall for WSP's 125th
anniversary

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

At this time I do not have any goals other than to make sure the charter stays updated and needed changes are made as they arise.

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

I have been a lifelong resident and active in the city for the last ten years. I have served on a few committees and volunteered for numerous events in the past, as well as worked with other organizations and schools in WSP. I feel I have a good handle on WSP's past and present, and would like to utilize that knowledge in continuing to keep WSP on a path that is forward-thinking and on-par with communities that are around us.

Print

Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #4664

Date Submitted: 6/10/2022

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*

Heaney

Address1*

[Redacted]

Address2

[Redacted]

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
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- 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.

Charter, Planning

More Info

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

5

Ward

3

Precinct

1

Employment / Job Title*

Software Engineer

Employer Name & Address*

1329 Bidwell St

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

Before I moved here, I have served within local political party organizations as precinct chair / vice-chair / secretary. 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 and helped navigate state campaign finance reform rules. Last year, I wrote a blog post called "Explaining Your West Saint Paul (Dakota County) Property Tax Statement" that some community members found valuable: <https://bit.ly/3Hbx8Ps>

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

This is hard, because it depends which commission I get a term on! The skills necessary to be an effective Planning Commissioner or Charter Commissioner are similar: you have to be diligent in preparing for the issues and thorough in reading and understanding the laws governing West St. Paul (from our local zoning code to the state zoning law on up to the Supreme Court case *Euclid v. Ambler Realty* and its critics). But those skills serve different purposes on different commissions! Broadly speaking, I really like our city and am happy with it, so my goal on either commission would be to preserve what we have while adapting appropriately for the future. But isn't that everyone's goal?

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

Desire to give back to a community that has given me quite a bit.

Print

Application for Appointment to Commissions, Boards, Committees and Task Forces - Submission #4700

Date Submitted: 6/19/2022

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*

Carol

Last Name*

Keyes-Ferrer

Address1*

[Redacted]

Address2

[Redacted]

City*

West St 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

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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.*

Organizer, Marthaler Park (adopt a park) and Marthaler Neighborhood group. MetroIBA (independent business alliance) Board of Directors 2019-2022. MetroIBA Executive Director Search Committee Chair. Prior board member for Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Organized WSP candidate forums in 2020. American Society of Safety Professionals Finance Committee. Past chair of Sierra Club, Northern Dakota County.

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

1. Maintain fair and accessible voting for all residents, including increased participation for renters. 2. Keeping the charter relevant for our times, whether that means spending limits or keeping public hearings and council meetings accessible. 3. Communication between committees seems to have improved, but ensuring staff work and committee work does not become too siloed.

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

I've followed council meetings since we moved to WSP and have occasionally attended different committee meetings. I believe it is important to be active in our community and participate.

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*

[REDACTED]

Address2

[REDACTED]

City*

West St 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.

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

5

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 (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 considering 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.

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?

To: **Chair VanMoorlehem and Members of the Charter Commission**
Through: **Nate Burkett, City Manager**
From: **Kori Land, City Attorney**
Date: **July 28, 2022**

Election of Officers

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Bylaws require that a Chair and Vice Chair be elected annually between July and December. An officer may be elected to successive terms without limitation.

The current officers are as follows:

Chair – Doug Fromm
Vice Chair – Matthew Schempp

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Elect a Chair and Vice Chair