



CITY OF SALEM

Revisions to the Agenda

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, November 28, 2016 6:30 PM Council Chambers

Meeting Location: Loucks Auditorium - Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty Street SE

3.3c. [16-376](#) Interviews for positions on the Salem Planning Commission.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Revise - Revised staff report and added additional attachments



Staff Report

File #: 16-376

Version: 1

Date: 11/28/2016

Item #: 3.3c.

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Steve Powers, City Manager

FROM: Board and Commission Appointments Committee

SUBJECT:

Interviews for positions on the Salem Planning Commission.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

ISSUE:

Shall the City Council interview two additional applicants for full-term positions on the Salem Planning Commission?

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve interviewing two additional applicants for full-term positions on the Salem Planning Commission.

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND:

Salem Planning Commission

The Salem Planning Commission acts as an advisory commission to the City Council with a broad scope of concern in promoting the growth and orderly development of the City of Salem. In addition, the Commission reviews and issues decisions regarding a number of quasi-judicial land use applications. The Council Committee reviewed and considered applications for soon-to-be vacant positions and recommends the two applicants listed below in the Facts and Findings section be interviewed by the City Council, in addition to two other applicants previously approved for interviews by the City Council.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

The Council Board and Commission Appointments Committee met on November 16, 2016, and recommends the following applicants be interviewed for two open positions on the Salem Planning Commission: **Steve Elzinga** and **Leah McMillan**. These applicants are in addition to Brandon Smith and Drew Wright, who were previously approved by City Council for interviews.

Attachments:

1. Steve Elzinga Application - Redacted
2. Leah McMillan Application - Redacted
3. Brandon Smith Application - Redacted
4. Drew Wright Application - Redacted

11/28/2016

Salem Planning Commission

Steve Elzinga

Occupation: Legislative and Legal Director

Address: [REDACTED]

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Work Phone: 503-986-1953

Cell Phone

Email: [REDACTED]

Ward: 3

Date Applied: 11/14/2016 8:05:38 AM

Business Name: Oregon Legislature

Business Address: 900 Court St. SE, Salem

Supplemental Answers

What is your primary business or occupation?

Legislative and Legal Director in the Oregon Legislature

Please list the citizen advisory committees, civic, charitable or other organizations upon which you have served including the dates and length of service.

Community Advisor to Corban University Debate Team (2.5 years; 2014-present); Beaverton Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (1.5 years; 2006-2007; Chair 2007); Conestoga Local School Committee (2 years; 2005-2007); Greenway Neighborhood Association (1 year; Vice-Chair 2005)

What do you believe you can contribute to the Planning Commission?

As a fourth-generation Oregonian, I care deeply about our community. My wife and I work here, own a home here, and have chosen to raise our family here. As an attorney, I bring a keen eye for detail, objective analysis, and experience working with codes and regulations. I will emphasize transparency and public input while pursuing pragmatic, collaborative solutions that maximize Salem's livability, respect property owners, and faithfully implement the policies set by the City Council.

1. Have you attended a meeting of the Planning Commission in the past 12 months? If yes, how many?

No, but I attended a meeting several years ago.

2. Please briefly describe your work or volunteer experience which relates to the work of the Planning Commission.

My legal background and experience in the legislature has shaped the approach I will take on the Planning Commission to implement the policies set by the City Council.

Before making a decision, I gather as much information as possible, ask probing questions, and carefully consider public testimony. Next, I work with colleagues to identify the top priorities for stakeholders so we can build consensus compromises that balance competing concerns. This approach has enabled me to help negotiate bipartisan deals on sensitive issues like gun policy, ban the box, tax reform, and retirement programs.

3. List any of your skills, knowledge, or perspectives that you believe add value to the Planning Commission's land use decision-making process.

Commitment to our community, respect for all, enthusiastic learner, good at asking questions, extensive work with laws and regulations, strong research skills, negotiation experience, analytical thinking, quick recognition of pros and cons of alternative options, bicycle commuter, respect for the Planning Commission's limited role of implementing City Council policies and making recommendations.

4. Please list your experience working on diverse teams, public bodies, or committees.

I have worked with many Oregonians of diverse backgrounds and perspectives in the legislative process and on the committees listed above. For example, I helped bridge cultural age gaps as the youngest chair of the Beaverton Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, helping increase community awareness about identity theft and health issues for seniors. My current job involves working with people from around the state with diverse ideologies, ethnicities, backgrounds, etc.

5. The Commission strives to make decisions which implement the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. Describe your affiliations within the community that could affect your ability to participate in land use decisions if you are appointed to the Planning Commission.

I will consult with the City Attorney and recuse myself from any potential conflicts of interest that arise, which may include decisions directly affecting the Oregon State Capitol Building (where I work), South Salem High School (where my wife teaches voice lessons), Evergreen Church of Salem (our church), and properties immediately surrounding our house (near the intersection of Hulsey Ave and Hulsey Ct SE).

Salem Planning Commission

Leah McMillan

Occupation: Architect

Address: [REDACTED]

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email: [REDACTED]

Ward: 2

Date Applied: 11/7/2016 1:52:31 PM

Business Name: Mill Creek Architecture

Business Address:

Supplemental Answers

What is your primary business or occupation?

I am an architect. I own my own firm and consult with other architects.

Please list the citizen advisory committees, civic, charitable or other organizations upon which you have served including the dates and length of service.

I have served on the Salem Housing Authority Advisory Committee and Salem Housing and Urban Development Advisory Committee both 2011-2013, SESNA Board 2009-2012, my local professional board Salem AIA 2009-2012, and the SESNA Heritage Neighborhood Committee 2016.

What do you believe you can contribute to the Planning Commission?

I believe I bring a unique perspective from the design side of the field and I speak the code and planning language. I also enjoy riding my bike with my family and am aware of the needs for better access. I want to see Salem thrive as a unique city.

1. Have you attended a meeting of the Planning Commission in the past 12 months? If yes, how many?

I have not attended in the past 12 months, but I have attended meetings.

2. Please briefly describe your work or volunteer experience which relates to the work of the Planning Commission.

As an architect I am familiar with the planning policies and codes created and enforced in the city of Salem. I am familiar with the applications and process and have worked with several staff members on projects. I have previously worked for four firms in Salem. Currently, I have only 1 consulting project and one project under construction in the Salem area.

3. List any of your skills, knowledge, or perspectives that you believe add value to the Planning Commission's land use decision-making process.

I grew up outside of Salem, but I have owned my home and lived here for over 10 years. I have seen the city grown and change and I have seen it struggle. I want Salem to be unique, not another Portland, not a cheap place to buy houses. I want it to be a thriving community that I can raise my family in, bike safely to school and work in, create attractive nodes and responsibly planned developments. I believe that both working and living in the city as well as raising my family here show that I am committed to seeing Salem thrive. As much as I'd like to think this can be done by architects, one building at a time, I know that more improvements can be made by working on fundamentals with other community members.

4. Please list your experience working on diverse teams, public bodies, or committees.

I've worked on several committees made up of individuals who bring unique backgrounds and skills to the table but share their compassion for the community. Sometimes I find myself leading the group while other times I am happy to sit and listen and learn.

5. The Commission strives to make decisions which implement the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. Describe your affiliations within the community that could affect your ability to participate in land use decisions if you are appointed to the Planning Commission.

If I was working on a project myself or with an architect or firm involved in an application, I would have to recuse myself from that project. I believe that my membership with the Salem AIA would bring better opinions and inform other architects and designers in the community. I also feel that an architect on this board is slightly different from the past real estate agents and developers that have sat on the board, architects tend not to directly benefit from these decisions, they simply help inform their clients.

Salem Planning Commission

Brandon Smith

Occupation: Claims Adjuster
[REDACTED]

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Ward: 1

Date Applied: 10/7/2016 11:04:34 AM

Business Name: SAIF Corporation

Business Address:

Supplemental Answers

What is your primary business or occupation?

Claims adjuster, SAIF Corporation

Please list the citizen advisory committees, civic, charitable or other organizations upon which you have served including the dates and length of service.

Keizer City Council, 2007-2012 Keizer City Council, 2015-2016, Council liaison to the Keizer Planning Commission Keizer Parks Advisory Board (chair, vice chair) Keizer Urban Renewal Citizens Advisory Board Keizer Urban Renewal Agency Keizer Long Range Planning Task Force Leadership Keizer 2009, participant Leadership Keizer 2010, steering committee Keizer Storm Water Advisory Committee Keizer Volunteer Coordinating Committee Keizer Skate Park Task Force (chair) Keizer Community Build Task Force - Executive Leadership Committee Keizer Community Build Task Force Committee - Public Relations Director Keizer Audit Committee Keizer Budget Committee Keizer Iris Festival Committee Keizer Heritage Foundation Strategic Plan Task Force Keizer Economic Opportunities Analysis Task Force Keizer Municipal Court Judge Evaluation Committee League Of Oregon Cities Finance & Taxation Committee League Of Oregon Cities General Government Committee Keizer Rotary, past member

What do you believe you can contribute to the Planning Commission?

11 years of city government experience on a wide variety of issues, including time as the City Council liaison to the Keizer Planning Commission. A proven ability to evaluate complex topics and make well-reasoned independent decisions. A thorough understanding of the role of appointed citizen advisory committees in relation to the elected city council.

1. Have you attended a meeting of the Planning Commission in the past 12 months? If yes, how many?

No. I was a long-time resident of Keizer, but just moved to Salem a few months ago.

2. Please briefly describe your work or volunteer experience which relates to the work of the Planning Commission.

See above list of elected and appointed positions for civic/volunteer experience. In my professional life, I am a workers' compensation claims adjuster, providing knowledgeable, autonomous management of a wide range of workers' compensation policies and procedures through the application of statutes, rules and SAIF policies and procedures. Achieving positive resolution of issues and influencing retention of quality business through delivery of professional, proactive service to all customers. Rendering sound and timely decisions regarding benefit entitlement and delivery with the highest level of integrity. Maintaining comprehensive knowledge of current workers compensation statutes, rules and case law. Analyzing claim information, establish reserves for the ultimate probable cost of a claim. Managing litigated claims to resolution through collaborative interaction with SAIF resources. Identifying and acting on strategic settlement opportunities through evaluation and analysis of potential exposures and outcomes. Anticipating and acting on customer issues through active listening and meaningful collaboration.

3. List any of your skills, knowledge, or perspectives that you believe add value to the Planning Commission's land use decision-making process.

See above

4. Please list your experience working on diverse teams, public bodies, or committees.

See above list of elected and appointed positions.

5. The Commission strives to make decisions which implement the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. Describe your affiliations within the community that could affect your ability to participate in land use decisions if you are appointed to the Planning Commission.

I have no affiliations in the Salem community that would impact my ability to participate in land use decisions.

Salem Planning Commission

Drew Wright

Occupation: Maps Credit Union

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Ward: 7

Date Applied: 10/26/2016 3:30 PM

Business Name: Maps Credit Union

Business Address:

Supplemental Answers

What is your primary business or occupation?

Maps Credit Union

Please list the citizen advisory committees, civic, charitable or other organizations upon which you have served including the dates and length of service.

Aumsville City Council, Jan. 2010-Feb. 2012 = 2 yr.

Aumsville Planning Commission, 2013-2014 = 1 yr

Aumsville Parks and Recreation Committee, 2013 = 1 yr.

What do you believe you can contribute to the Planning Commission?

I can contribute fresh ideas, and a voice for the citizens of Salem, Ore., and some experience from serving in Aumsville, Ore. And help Salem grow to benefit our citizens.

1. Have you attended a meeting of the Planning Commission in the past 12 months? If yes, how many?

No.

2. Please briefly describe your work or volunteer experience which relates to the work of the Planning Commission.

When I was on the Planning Commission in Aumsville, I was faced with many developmental applications with our local developer in town Rex Lucas. I was also instrumental in helping craft an emergency preparedness fair for our city.

3. List any of your skills, knowledge, or perspectives that you believe add value to the Planning Commission's land use decision-making process.

The skills and knowledge I can share with the planning commission from my former experience in Aumsville not only with the planning commission, and the city council is,

knowing the importance of getting the whole aspect of the land use application, and listening to both sides, getting all the information, and making a decision that is not only fair but will benefit the city and its citizens.

4. Please list your experience working on diverse teams, public bodies, or committees.

The experience I have is quite diverse, from working on the Aumsville Planning Commission, and making the hard decisions even when I'm in the minority. And same aspect when it came to serving on the city council. I approached the position as a public servant, and approached each issue that was brought to a vote that affected the citizens and the city in the mindset of how the citizens would vote on it. And I was again in the minority sometimes, but a lot of the time we worked together and came to a consensus so we wouldn't have a divided council.

5. The Commission strives to make decisions which implement the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. Describe your affiliations within the community that could affect your ability to participate in land use decisions if you are appointed to the Planning Commission.

I don't have any affiliation except for working for MAPS Credit Union in the Facilities Dept.