

Boards & Commissions Application



I am interested in serving on the following boards/commissions. (Please indicate the order of preference).

1. Social Services Advisory Board

2. _____

As an applicant/member of a Council-appointed Board or Commission, your name, address, and phone number will be available to the press and public. Information will be kept on file for three years. Public discussion of information contained herein may occur in the meeting at which appointments are considered by the City Council.

Mr. Mrs. Miss. Dr. (Please type or print clearly)

Name: Snyder Sara M Date: 11/12/2020
(Last) (First) (M.I)

Home Address 69 Preston Drive Harrisonburg VA 22801 Own/Rent? own

Phone Number: 404-368-4884 Alternate Phone: _____

Occupation: Professor Employer/Organization: JMU

E-mail: sara.snyder@gmail.com Harrisonburg resident for 3 years.

Were you referred by anyone: Yes Name of Referring Party: _____
None Text

How did you hear about volunteering on a board or commission? Cable Council Meeting
Other: _____

Why do you wish to serve on a board or commission?

Our family moved to this area from a much larger town, where you could live anonymously without knowing your neighbors. So we were never connected to our community and never saw a need to be further involved in what went on. Harrisonburg is different. Even though we aren't from here, our family has been embraced by the Harrisonburg community as though we've always been here. There is a place for everyone here. Opportunities to serve your neighbors are much more meaningful when you KNOW your neighbors. I see so many neighbors working hard to make Harrisonburg a place that not only is inclusive of all, but cares for all. I want to be a part of that mission.

What relevant experience or education do you have to this board or commission?

I've worked with individuals with disabilities across the lifespan from birth to adulthood. I have worked as an early interventionist and as well as provided job coaching for adults with disabilities. I taught students with severe disabilities for 6 years before becoming an administrator in special education (not in Harrisonburg). I am also a board certified behavior analyst. In these prior experiences I had opportunities to work with individuals who needed support from their community to live independently and contribute to the community in their own way. I currently train students to become special education teachers and behavior analysts. I think this work has allowed me to refine my skills with how to convince other people to do the right thing for individuals in their communities.

While my training is in disabilities, in reality people are much more than just a disability. I've worked alongside individuals and families of all cultural backgrounds, religions, ages, sexual orientations, and financial statuses. All of elements shape people into who they are, and we have to consider all of these elements when coming up with creative solutions to meet the diverse needs of individuals in our community. I also learned the importance of a collaborative approach when working with individuals who need support to live independently. I do not have all the solutions to all the problems, but by working with others and combining our resources, we are better equipped to solve complex issues.

What other interests or concerns do you have regarding the community?

At this point, I do not know enough yet about the work of the board and specific issues related to the community. But I look forward to learning more and engaging in conversations with other board members about the needs of the community.

Please list any past or present community involvement e.g. City Council, Board and Commissions, Citizen Academy, etc. in Harrisonburg or elsewhere:

None

-Please return completed application to the City Manager's Office-

Applicants are encouraged to attach a resume or other supporting information that may be helpful to Council in considering their application.

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