

Application Form

Profile

Mr. Brent M. Finnegan
Prefix First Name Middle Initial Last Name Suffix

brentfinnegan@gmail.com
Email Address

606 Lee Avenue
Home Address Suite or Apt

Harrisonburg VA 22802
City State Postal Code

How many years have you been a resident of Harrisonburg?

16

Mobile: (540) 999-8582 Home: (540) 999-8582
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

JMU Program Director
Employer Job Title

Demographics - (Submission of this information if voluntary and will not subject you to any adverse treatment should you chose to not complete)

Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Male

What is your age?

40-50 years old

Are you reapplying for a current position you hold? *

Yes

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission (PC): On Agenda

Interests & Experiences

Mr. Brent M. Finnegan

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I have been serving on the Harrisonburg Planning Commission since October 2016, stepping in to fill an unexpired term. I've learned quite a bit over the past seven years, and have worked to educate myself, researching policies, best practices, and tracking news of housing, land use, and climate resiliency in the Valley and across the U.S. These are the questions I consider when voting for or against applications: How might the development address our shortage of affordable housing? Will this raise or lower local carbon emissions? Might a denial encourage more suburban sprawl in the county, and is that better than this proposal? Will the tax revenue of this development support the city services needed to serve the residents? What impacts might this have on stormwater runoff and tree canopy cover? Will this ultimately make the city more walkable or more car-dependant? What is the balance between the regulations local governments impose on developers and how affordable the units will be for the residents?

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

I believe that climate resiliency and affordable housing are the top two issues facing Harrisonburg today. Transportation relates directly to those two issues, and I track local, state, and national news about land use, transportation, and housing, and write about these issues regularly to share information and help educate the public.

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

I'm an alumnus of the Harrisonburg Citizen Academy (2006). I'm a Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner through the Land Use Education Program (2017). I have seven years of experience on the Planning Commission (2016 to present).

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

I'm an alumnus of the Harrisonburg Citizen Academy (2006), and I serve on the Board of Directors of the Central Valley Habitat for Humanity.

[Resume - Brent Finnegan - 2023.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

EPSAC Applicants only

Bike/Pedestrian Subcommittee Applicants only

Brent Finnegan

Planning Commissioner • Team Leader • Project Manager

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

[linkedin.com/in/brentfinnegan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/brentfinnegan)

EXPERIENCE

Health Education Design Group (JMU) — *Program Director*

DECEMBER 2021 - PRESENT

Oversee development of online learning modules and educational videos, administer grants, manage budgets, and supervise twelve employees.

Serve on the IHHHS leadership team.

Communication Consultant (S/E) — *Digital Content Director*

JANUARY 2020 - JULY 2021

Developed online communications and marketing strategies and content for clients. Part of the comms team for a statewide 2021 campaign.

Filmed, produced, edited several videos per week, which received tens of thousands of organic views social media platforms.

Health Education Design Group (JMU) — *Head of Creative Design & Project Development*

MARCH 2015 - DECEMBER 2019

Led research and wrote scripts, initiated meetings with stakeholders, managed budgets and employees, and coordinated the post-production process. Managed office, facilitated meetings, gave presentations and wrote grant and project proposals.

EDUCATION

University of Texas, Austin — *B.S. in Communications*

GRADUATED IN 2003

Degree in Radio, Television, and Film. Staff writer at The Daily Texan.

PROJECTS

Online Publications (Various) — *Writer, Video Producer*

2006 - PRESENT

Launched and managed an independent local community news website focused on Harrisonburg (2006 - 2011). Write an online newsletter focused on local land use and climate news. (2023)

SKILLS

Project Management

Team Leadership

Communications

Grant Writing

Creative Storytelling

Video Production

AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner, Continuing and Professional Education at Virginia Tech (2017).

Outstanding Professional Achievement in the Media from the Public Relations Council of the Shenandoah Valley recognizing work on hburgnews.com (2010).

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Harrisonburg Planning Commissioner (2016 - present, 2021 Chair)

Board of Directors, Central Shenandoah Valley Habitat for Humanity (2022 - present)

Skyline Literacy, Citizenship Class Instructor (2012 - 2016)