

Boards & Commissions Application



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

1. Planning Commission
2. Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority
3. Ordinance Advisory Committee

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. Ms. Miss. Dr. (Please type or print clearly)

Name: Johannessen (Johnson) Jody L Date: 7-19-2021
(Last) (First) (M.I)

Home Address: 1280 Constitution Court #303, Harrisonburg VA 22802 Own/Rent? Rent

Phone Number: 540-208-8321 Alternate Phone: _____

Occupation: Lecturer (International Business and International Management) Employer/Organization: JMU College of Business

E-mail: jodyjohannessen@gmail.com Harrisonburg resident for <1 years.

Were you referred by anyone: Yes No Name of Referring Party: Thanh Dang, Assistant Director of Community Development, told me about the openings when I inquired about citizen participation

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

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

Moving here from Dubai, I was struck by the tremendous natural beauty of the area, and of the likelihood of growth in future decades. I also noticed that the housing is very low-density and completely reliant on cars, which means that the area will probably sprawl out into the countryside a great deal as the population grows. I saw that giant retail chains seem to have somehow gained an advantage in development, especially on major corridors like US-33. I wondered if there might be opportunities to help nurture the growth of home-grown businesses, and to make the city more unique and more walkable, which could also help create a tourism industry down the road. I'd love to make a contribution if I can somehow.

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

—Back in the 90s, I served on State of Minnesota committees while a state employee. I understand how government works at the state level in another mostly agrarian state. (I was an officer in the Depts. of Finance and Administration.)

—Since attending a charrette in Bluffton, SC about 15 years ago, I have been working to learn theory on zoning and planning by following the work of a variety of groups such as The Congress for The New Urbanism, Strong Towns and the World Economic Forum.

—Having been based in a global airline hub, Dubai, for over a decade, I had a rare chance to visit cities all around the world on 5 different continents. This gave me an unusual opportunity to see many the results of many different ways that communities solve problems together.

—I am brand new to the area, which I think could be helpful to the city in that I have not had time to get used to the way things "always have been." I still have fresh ideas from having spent a great deal of time in different cities and towns around the world, especially in Europe.

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

- Walkability
- Mixed-use zoning (pleasant and livable, not overcrowded or haphazard)
- Regional zoning/planning that protects the environment, wildlife and countryside
- Design planning for aesthetics/charm and eventual tourism
- Mixed-income development
- Community-centered design, with pleasant reserved spaces for community or for small community service businesses within in larger developments. Places where neighbors naturally, spontaneously meet. (This is very common overseas.)

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

- I am signed up for the Harrisonburg City Academy.
- I have served on over 20 charity boards and committees, mostly in Minneapolis and St Paul, Minnesota in the '90s. I was a member of the MN Governor's Council on Volunteerism.
- My bio: <https://www.ted.com/profiles/257431/about> (or <https://tinyurl.com/JodyJo>)

-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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