

Application Form

Profile

Prefix

Isaac
First Name

L
Middle Initial

Witmer
Last Name

Suffix

isaaclw@gmail.com
Email Address

1004 Rockingham Drive
Home Address

Suite or Apt

Harrisonburg
City

VA
State

22801
Postal Code

How many years have you been a resident of Harrisonburg?

11

Home: (540) 810-3792
Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

VistaShare, LLC
Employer

Computer Programmer
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

None Selected

Gender

Male

What is your age?

None Selected

Are you reapplying for a current position you hold? *

No

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission (PC): Eligible

Interests & Experiences

Isaac L Witmer

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

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

I live in Harrisonburg, and politics can be stressful, but political engagement is so important. I think it's important to engage in the community, to be part of hard conversations, and find solutions with people you might disagree with. Disagreements are important too. When you disagree with someone you learn about perspectives you wouldn't have otherwise. The Planning Commission is a very important group that affects the direction of the city and how we interact with each other into the future.

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

I saw climate change in Africa while I was there. That was 10 years ago. Climate change is going to affect the most marginalized, most notably those where drought and flooding will be worse. We have lots of people suffering here in Harrisonburg too. People without houses, or people struggling with work. All crises, Covid included, end up affecting the vulnerable the most. Politics and policies can help people, and it can also hurt people. I strive to educate myself so that my engagement with politics can be to advocate for those who are the most vulnerable.

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

This would be my first engagement with City Boards. I applied in the past for the Comprehensive Plan groups, and participated in them, but my engagement was as a regular citizen. I worked for MCC in Kenya for two years after I graduated from College in Indiana with a Physics Major. All of my work since then has been computer related. I moved to Harrisonburg in 2011 to work for the tech company that I currently work at. I'm one of the more senior programmers there now. While this is my first board or commission; I am very interested in city planning, particularly with the apartment building conversations across town, and the housing shortages we're seeing in the United States right now. These are really interesting problems, and very serious problems for the people who are affected by them.

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

Volunteered with: - Sierra Club - International Festival cleanup (when it was at Hillandale) - Vacation Bible School at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church (HMC) - Various tech issues at HMC when asked - Knocked Doors for some political campaigns - Small local Fundraising organization for a Christian College in Ethiopia Currently attempting to find ways to support Bridge of Hope, through a Family group (but not yet involved)

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EPSAC Applicants only