

Planning Commission – Recommended for Appointment July 2016

Stephanie Forsland

Employer: St. Anthony – New Brighton Schools

Job Title: Teacher

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

My first experience actively working to improve living conditions in an urban area was in high school. I volunteered during most every summer vacation, high school through college, painting and repairing apartments in some of Chicago's most impoverished neighborhoods and public housing projects. Those summers sealed my love for cities, inspired my academic and professional choices, and set a personal precedent for community engagement. Now that my twin daughters are a little older, I want to be voice and actor for revival, prosperity, and equity in my own community. Dave Lanegran has (for many, many years) encouraged me to apply for this position, and it is finally a good time in my personal and professional life to do so!

What skills/training or experience do you possess for the committee(s) for which you seek appointment?

My first official (i.e., academic) experience began at Macalester College, where I studied geography, with an emphasis on global economic and human development and urban geography. Dave Lanegran's influence on me was transformative. After college, I worked for the ACM Semester in the Arts program in Chicago, and then the Community and Economic Development Office in Burlington, VT. I then received my Master of Urban Planning. My thesis research and paper examined the economic opportunities and impacts of public investment in the fine arts. I also was a journalist for Chicago Enterprise, a magazine published by the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago. The magazine covered a wide range of urban issues of interest to the planning and business communities. After receiving my MUP, I worked at Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill--one of the world's premiere AEP firms--in their Chicago office. Before teaching in MN, I was the Director of Education at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park, IL, a job that combined my training and experience in both architecture/design and teaching. I currently teach Advanced Placement Human Geography (12 years) and, depending on the term and school year, other social science courses at St. Anthony Village High School.

Kris Fredson

Employer: Minnesota AFL-CIO

Job Title: Political Director

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

I am interested in serving the City of Saint Paul again. I care deeply about the future of our children, working families and community.

What skills/training or experience do you possess for the committee(s) for which you seek appointment?

I have lived in Saint Paul since 1996 and worked for the Office of the Mayor from 2006-2010. I am knowledgeable of challenges and opportunities that face the people of Saint Paul and our neighborhoods, ranging from income inequality and disinvestment, to rebuilding our infrastructure and the Ford Plant site. I have experience in crafting public policy, such as Saint Paul's Living Wage and Project Labor Agreement Ordinances, and in problem-solving, serving as Mayor Coleman's labor liaison. I am committed to working together in partnership with others to advance our common purpose to move Saint Paul forward.