

Parks and Recreation Commission – Recommended for Appointment August 2016

Rafael Espinosa

Employer: UFCW Local 1189

Job Title: Union Representative

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

Because I have been a volunteer in youth sports in my neighborhood for the past five years, and I can bring that expertise to the commission.

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

I have served on about five boards of directors in the past 15 years, including the community council board of the directors in Dayton's Bluff. I have a very good understanding of the needs of Rec Centers in the East Side of St. Paul.

Clara Haycraft

Employer: United State Senate

Job Title: Deputy State Director for Administration

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

I am interested in serving on this commission because I am passionate about community engagement and community building. Serving on this commission will help me with my goals of expanding access to Parks and Recreation programming to all communities across Saint Paul. I am also a mom whose children participate in various programs. I am interested in being part of helping to grow and sustain such important programs in our community

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

I am a long time public servant, community member, and parent. I have years of experience building relationships to solve problems. I have an MPA from Hamline University, and am passionate about bringing people together to make our communities stronger in Saint Paul.

SuChann Yang

Employer: Councilmember Dai Thao

Job Title: Legislative Aide

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

I have a deep love for creating spaces for people to go see, visit, live, and enjoy nature, especially what St. Paul has to offer. I believe that the Parks and Rec is what attracts people to the city and provides welcoming spaces that keep people wanting to invest their time and life in the city. Many people who live in St. Paul are at-risk and can't afford the expensive parks and live in unstable homes. I have seen this happen over and over and want to continue making Parks and Rec vibrant for everyone of all backgrounds.

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

I helped to start and am currently on board of a non-profit called Hmong American Vanguard Power Alliance for Justice that fights for social justice for the Hmong community. I have great skill in including everyone and bringing in people who want to have a voice. I have organizing experience with Saint Paul Federation of Teachers and with Councilmember Thao's re-election campaign as Field Director. I have been to National People's Action weeklong training which taught me how to organize. I obtained my education in Exercise Science which gave me the knowledge of how environment and housing affect health and behavior. I am also a visionary and see the bigger picture before making tough decisions.