

**Planning Commission
Proposed Appointments – January 2017**

Luis Rangel Morales (prefers Luis Rangel)

Ward 3 (Macalester Groveland)

Latino

Employer: Neighborhood Justice Center

Occupation: Attorney

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

As a member of the Macalester Groveland neighborhood and a young, minority attorney employed at a long-standing St. Paul non-profit, I believe I will bring an energized and creative mindset to this advisory body.

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

A few years ago, I served as part of a USDA-funded multinational research team that developed a sustainable agribusiness project for the rural community of Borko, Mali. I helped draft a sustainable agricultural policy for l’Institutd’Economie Rural and the Malian Agribusiness Center that both respected the local community’s customs and satisfied their nutritional and financial needs. As a resident of St. Paul, I am invested in understanding how municipal planning can reshape and alter the identity of a community. Development work was a strong research inquiry during my work in Mali. I believe in the promotion of growth while at the same time maintaining the integrity of what define our communities. If appointed, I would bring a comprehensive ability to address these types of situations to the Planning Commission.

Additionally, my ability to promote change as a criminal defense attorney for the Neighborhood Justice Center, Inc. is inherently limited to a reactionary environment. While NJC’s mission is to assure that low income St. Paul community members have their constitutional rights upheld in the criminal justice process, the organization is mainly limited to helping individuals once they have entered the system. The Commission’s advisory capacity carries the ability to have proactive discussions that promote economic development and revitalization. My professional role permits me to voice for organizations and businesses in areas where development and stimulation are needed.

Tats Tanaka

Ward 4 (St. Anthony Park)

Asian American

Employer: Metro Transit

Occupation: Senior Project Coordinator

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

I believe the City of St. Paul is on the cusp of re-defining itself as a great metropolitan for the generations to come. For that, it is important that we need commitment and engage in coordinated work with development partners with a clear vision that represents diverse values. I also believe effective planning promotes quality of life while balancing between individual preferences and the interest of the whole community. I am interested in serving on the planning commission because it would be a good place to engage in public discourse that can fuse my personal belief and technical and professional experience.

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

In my career as a registered architect, I have had an honor of working with highly talented professionals and on many complex projects with unsurpassed experience in the craft of building and public space that ranges from non-profit art center to a major corporate campus expansion. Most recently, I have been involved with the Southwest Light Rail Project as a design lead. Also, I grew up in a city with mass transit and come to believe that mass transit system plays a critical role in bringing positive impact on communities socially, economically, and environmentally.

Lue Vang

Ward 7 (Dayton's Bluff)

Asian American

Employer: Children's Hospital Foundation

Occupation: Foundation Accountant

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

I am interested in the City of Saint Paul Planning Commission because this will be a great opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the needs of my community and better serve my community. From my experience with current and prior board of directors (Saint Paul Neighborhood Network, Youthprise, and Center for Hmong Arts and Talent), I helped shape discussions to define clear issues and find concrete solutions. I will bring the same passion and analytical thinking to the Planning Commission and ensure that our decisions impact the greater good of the community.

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

I am currently serving as the Vice President of Saint Paul Neighborhood Network and working with other community members to create strategic plans for Saint Paul Neighborhood Network. Secondly, with my position at the foundation, I oversee program and strategic budgets for new funding opportunities, provide ytd financial reports to management, and manage an annual budget of \$15+ million transfer between the foundation and the hospital. I have a strong knowledge of financials and the ability to work with various community members which I am confident will help me in this committee.