



**CITY OF NEWPORT
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
NEWPORT CITY HALL
JANUARY 15, 2015
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MAYOR: Tim Geraghty
COUNCIL: Tom Ingemann
Bill Sumner
Tracy Rahm
Dan Lund

City Administrator: Deb Hill
Supt. of Public Works: Bruce Hanson
Chief of Police: Curt Montgomery
Fire Chief:
Executive Analyst: Renee Eisenbeisz

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL
2. PLANNING COMMISSION INTERVIEWS
 - A. MARVIN TAYLOR
 - B. STEVEN THOMAS
 - C. DAVID TWEETEN
3. ADJOURNMENT



MEMO

TO: Mayor and City Council
Deb Hill, City Administrator

FROM: Renee Eisenbeisz, Executive Analyst

DATE: January 8, 2015

SUBJECT: Planning Commission Interviews

BACKGROUND

The City currently has two vacancies on the Planning Commission and advertised for them in November and December 2014. The City received three applications for these vacancies: Marvin Taylor, Steven Thomas, and David Tweeten. The City Council will be interviewing the three applicants at the January 15, 2015 workshop in the following order:

- Marvin Taylor
- Steven Thomas
- David Tweeten

DISCUSSION

The City Council will need to interview the three applicants and discuss who would be best to fill the two vacancies. Please note that the next Planning Commission meeting is February 12, 2015 so the City Council should make a decision at the February 5 meeting.

Dear Ms. Hill:

I write to share my desire to serve on Newport's planning commission. While I am a relatively new resident of Newport, I seek to contribute to the long-term development of the city.

The abilities I could bring to the commission are rather unique, especially in combination. Although a bit on the back burner, I am nearing the completion of a PhD in geography from the University of Minnesota. My research has primarily focused upon long-term changes in economic development in Minnesota. I also have a longstanding interest in the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities. Indicative of this interest, I will be teaching a colloquium on the economic geographies of the river in the Twin Cities for the urban studies program at the University of Minnesota starting in January. With many of Newport's challenges and opportunities entwined with its historical evolution and location upon the Mississippi River, I believe my academic background could help provide insightful recommendations for planning the city's future.

For most of the nearly two years I have lived in Newport, I have worked as a carpenter. Initially I worked for Martin Joseph Design and Construction of Newport, now I am employed by a residential remodeling company in Minneapolis. From my experiences in construction, I have gained a greater appreciation of the challenges of maintaining and improving our built environment. Put simply, great expenditures are required. Planning is critical to ensuring the feasibility and long-term efficacy of improvements. Along this line, I am particularly interested in working on ways to reduce the large amount of vacant or underutilized commercial parcels in the city while respecting the interests of the present owners.

Taken together, my background leads me to be ambitious in aspiration, yet grounded by the need to work methodically. Through this combination, I believe I could effectively serve on Newport's planning commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marvin Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marvin Taylor

City of NEWPORT
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Newport City Hall ♦ 596 7th Avenue ♦ Newport ♦ Minnesota ♦ 55055 ♦ Telephone 651-459-5677 ♦ Fax 651-459-9883

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the City!

Personal Information

Name: Marvin Taylor Telephone: _____
Address: 1247 2nd Ave Cell: _____
City/State/Zip: Newport, MN 55055 Date of Birth: _____
Email Address: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime: Yes No

If yes, list specific crime, circumstances, date of conviction, and location of conviction below:

Have you ever been discharged, forced to resign, or "counseled out" of prior employment or a volunteer assignment?

Yes No If yes, please list the circumstances below:

Type of Volunteer Work:

Voluntary Commission Library and Community Center Volunteer One-Time Volunteer

Adopt-a-Park/Trail (See attached to select which park/trail you would like and fill out the information below)

Volunteer Information

Volunteer Experience and Special Skills:

Availability: Please list the times when you are available below

Adopt-a-Park/Trail Information

Name of Group/Person (if different from above): _____

Name of Group Representative (if different from above): _____

Desired Trail/Park: _____

Time Commitment (example: January 1 - December 31, 2014): _____

NOTE: If you are an experienced gardener and are interested in helping weed Newport's public gardens, please contact John Neska at (651) 459-2475.

Renee Eisenbeisz

From: Steven Thomas [s [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 10:44 PM
To: Renee Eisenbeisz
Subject: Letter of Interest for City Planning Commission

There are one hundred and one different adages about success and motivation. Posters with catch phrases have adorned the offices and cubicles of countless workers. They may be catchy but they do nothing to improve people's quality of life. I firmly believe that a better quality of life is greatly dependent on focusing less on ones self and serving others instead.

My name is Steven Edw. Thomas. When my family and I moved to Newport three years ago we did it with the intention of staying for good. We love our home, neighbors, local church, the local kids and the close proximity to our children's school. I do not want to neglect to mention the river. I love the river.

As a young man in my twenties I created business. I operated product-manufacturing companies. I built skate parks thru out the mid-west. I also worked with image creation and advertising campaigns for other companies. Today as I move about in our city I see a need for business creation. I see potential in every unused gravel lot and vacant building. I imagine an image change for Newport resulting in new development and increased revenue for the city. Good things will happen here in Newport, and I want to serve.

In my current occupation in the construction industry I have been blessed with unique opportunities and have seen wonderful things happen. A neighborhood in Minneapolis is being revived by the conversion of old buildings into an artistic grocery store. Warehouse office spaces have been remodeled into a museum like design firm bringing commerce into a lifeless area. I desire to see these sorts of events take place here, in Newport.

I would like to be considered worthy of serving on the city planning commission. I would like to do my part to improve the quality of life for my friends and neighbors.

steven.edw.thomas

City of NEWPORT
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Newport City Hall ♦ 596 7th Avenue ♦ Newport ♦ Minnesota ♦ 55055 ♦ Telephone 651-459-5677 ♦ Fax 651-459-9883

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the City!

Personal Information

Name: STEVEN EDWARD THOMAS Telephone: [REDACTED]
Address: 182 10th STREET Cell: _____
City/State/Zip: NEWPORT, MN 55055 Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED]

Have you ever been convicted of a crime: Yes No

If yes, list specific crime, circumstances, date of conviction, and location of conviction below:

Have you ever been discharged, forced to resign, or "counseled out" of prior employment or a volunteer assignment?

Yes No If yes, please list the circumstances below:

Type of Volunteer Work: PLANNING COMMISSION

Voluntary Commission Library and Community Center Volunteer One-Time Volunteer

Adopt-a-Park/Trail (See attached to select which park/trail you would like and fill out the information below)

Volunteer Information

Volunteer Experience and Special Skills:

Catholic Charities, Appalachian Service Project, Twin Cities Tree Trust, construction, common sense

Availability: Please list the times when you are available below

EVENINGS

Adopt-a-Park/Trail Information

Name of Group/Person (if different from above): _____

Name of Group Representative (if different from above): _____

Desired Trail/Park: _____

Time Commitment (example: January 1 - December 31, 2014): _____

NOTE: If you are an experienced gardener and are interested in helping weed Newport's public gardens, please contact John Neska at (651) 459-2475.

Applicant Statement and Acknowledgements

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct, and I have not omitted or misstated any information. I understand that falsification or omission of information may disqualify me from further consideration for volunteering and may lead to my dismissal if discovered at a later date. I agree to immediately notify the City of Newport if I should be convicted of a felony or any crime while my application is pending, or during my period of volunteering.

I authorize all persons, schools, employers and law enforcement authorities to release any information concerning my background, including all information contained in this application. I hereby release any said persons, school, employers, and law enforcement authorities from all liability in responding to inquiries in connection with my application.

I understand that I am required to abide by all rules and regulations set forth by the City of Newport. I also understand that I have the right to receive a copy of this acknowledgement should I request one.

Applicant's Signature:  Date: 12/11/2014

Parent/Guardian's Signature (required if under 18): _____

**CITY OF NEWPORT
VOLUNTEER POLICY**

By signing this document, I STEVEN EDWARD THOMAS, am acknowledging
(printed name)

that I have received and read a copy of the City of Newport's Citizen Volunteer Policy and fully understand and agree to the provisions of the Policy. Furthermore, I understand that the City bears no legal obligations to any parties who are injured while performing volunteer services.

st ch th
Signature

12/11/2014
Date

David C. Tweeten
211 Park Pl
Newport, MN 55055

December 3, 2014

To the members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing to express interest in volunteering to support and serve on the Newport Planning Commission. I believe my education and experiences provide a solid background for the work encountered by the Commission, and I look forward to the opportunity to bring my insights and skills to the table.

For the past thirteen years, I have been employed by Thomson Reuters in Eagan, and presently work as a Principal Attorney Editor. In this position I have produced editorial enhancements for thousands of judicial opinions featured in printed publications and on Westlaw, the nation's foremost legal research service. My work requires the writing of concise summaries for legal decisions pertaining to statutory, regulatory, contractual and common law requirements over a broad spectrum of legal practice areas, with notable focus on Municipal Law, Property Law and Administrative Law. I have a law degree from the University of Iowa and earned my undergraduate degree in Political Science and Government Affairs from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

My wife and I purchased our home in Newport in 2009 and are looking to become more involved in the civic life of this marvelous little community. Thank you for considering my offer to volunteer.

Sincerely,

David C. Tweeten

City of NEWPORT
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Newport City Hall ♦ 596 7th Avenue ♦ Newport ♦ Minnesota ♦ 55055 ♦ Telephone 651-459-5677 ♦ Fax 651-459-9883

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the City!

Personal Information

Name: David Tweeten Telephone: [REDACTED]
Address: 211 Park Place Cell: 651-459-6399
City/State/Zip: Newport MN 55055 Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED]

Have you ever been convicted of a crime: Yes No

If yes, list specific crime, circumstances, date of conviction, and location of conviction below:

Have you ever been discharged, forced to resign, or "counseled out" of prior employment or a volunteer assignment?

Yes No If yes, please list the circumstances below:

Type of Volunteer Work:

- Voluntary Commission Library and Community Center Volunteer One-Time Volunteer
 Adopt-a-Park/Trail (See attached to select which park/trail you would like and fill out the information below)

Volunteer Information

Volunteer Experience and Special Skills:

Please see letter

Availability: Please list the times when you are available below

Primarily evenings

Adopt-a-Park/Trail Information

Name of Group/Person (if different from above): _____

Name of Group Representative (if different from above): _____

Desired Trail/Park: _____

Time Commitment (example: January 1 - December 31, 2014): _____

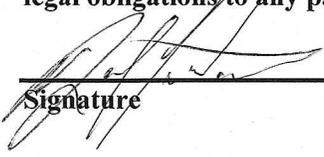
NOTE: If you are an experienced gardener and are interested in helping weed Newport's public gardens, please contact John Neska at (651) 459-2475.

Amended October 17, 2013

**CITY OF NEWPORT
VOLUNTEER POLICY**

By signing this document, I David Tweeten, am acknowledging
(printed name)

that I have received and read a copy of the City of Newport's Citizen Volunteer Policy and fully understand and agree to the provisions of the Policy. Furthermore, I understand that the City bears no legal obligations to any parties who are injured while performing volunteer services.


Signature

12/4/14
Date