



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Jacques Gilbert

FROM: Planning Board Chair Reginald Skinner

DATE: August 23, 2022

RE: Planning Board appointment recommendations for September 2022

I respectfully recommend that the following applicants be considered for possible appointment to the Town of Apex Planning Board in September 2022. There are two open seats on the Planning Board. My recommendations are ranked in priority order below:

1. Casey Angel because he is an Affordable Housing Advocate who sits on the CASA Board and is complimentary of staff in Triangle Business Journal article attached below.
2. Alyssa (Byrd) Stepusin because she is an Economic Development professional in Chatham County and Fuquay-Varina. She was a 40 under 40 Economic Development winner (see press release below), is a new marketing/communications director with Lee & Associates and brings diversity to the board.
3. Janak Thapaliya because he is a Civil Engineer with PSEG and would bring diversity to the board.
4. Sean Hein because he is a Professional Land Surveyor and Real Estate Broker, and a Senior Project Manager with Timmons Group, a civil engineering firm.

2021 Corporate Philanthropy Awards: Casey Angel with Longfellow Real Estate Partners



[Enlarge](#)

Casey Angel of Longfellow Real Estate Partners.

LONGFELLOW REAL ESTATE PARTNERS

Nov 18, 2021

Name: Casey Angel

Title: Associate Director, Corporate Communications

Company: Longfellow Real Estate Partners

Who went above and beyond to forward the cause of philanthropy in the Triangle? The entire staff of CASA have shown unbelievable resilience over the past year. The staff was able to continue their successful outreach to the community, and hasn't missed a beat in providing affordable housing units throughout the Triangle with their family units, veterans' housing, workforce housing solutions and disability housing programs. In addition to their continued compassion for the community, they have also gone above and beyond for their residents' individual well-being during the pandemic.

Who do you look to for guidance? My guidance comes from my personal advisers, my family – specifically my wife and son. Thinking about how projects, ideas and plans may be viewed and their

positive impacts is what I love to chat with my wife about. Sharing my passion for safe, affordable housing with my family helps us give back together, but also allows us to share in the little things that can be a blessing to others.

Where do you see yourself in five years? In five years, I will continue helping our community with housing insecurity. Housing is the bedrock of all we hold dear as a society – it is the foundation that all of our successes are built off of. While we may have individual differences, housing is the one common need that connects us all, and that is why it is so vital. Coming together as a community is the way we help solve this crisis.

What is on your wish list for philanthropy in the next year? Topping the wish list for giving and philanthropy has to be the return to in-person meetings, fundraisers and educational opportunities. Meeting others who share your passion, and getting to know those we are working with is of the utmost importance. Covid has separated all of us, but for so many it separated the tangible touch points we have with the causes that are so near and dear to us.

What could the Triangle business community do to further support philanthropy? I've always lived by the wisdom "To whom much is given, much will be required" – and I truly believe the Triangle community can continue to grow and blossom with this approach. Our region has the great fortune of opportunity, growth and quality of life for so many, and it is our responsibility to help our neighbors in need. We need the best of our businesses, government and nonprofits working together for the best tomorrows.

<https://www.fuquay-varina.org/DocumentCenter/View/6603/2021-Alyssa-Byrd-40-Under-40>

March 17, 2019

Fuquay-Varina Economic Development Director Alyssa Byrd Wins 40 Under 40 Award in Economic Development

Fuquay-Varina, NC – Alyssa Byrd, Economic Development Director with the Town of Fuquay-Varina has been announced as a recipient of the 2021 Economic Development 40 Under 40 Award, the biennial award recognizing rising stars under 40 years old in the economic development industry.

The awards program is hosted by Development Counsellors International (DCI), a New York- based integrated marketing firm that works with economic development and travel organizations around the globe, and Jorgenson Consulting, a leading national executive search firm serving organizations in non-profit, economic, and community development industries. An independent selection committee of six economic development professionals and site selection consultants evaluated a record-number of 200-plus nominees.

"This past year has demonstrated the importance of economic development in building and sustaining resilient communities," said Julie Curtin, president of DCI's economic development practice. "I'm especially impressed by the diverse perspectives and skillsets of this year's winners as they lead communities to prioritize new ways of thinking, building inclusive and equitable economies, and bringing an attitude of fresh new ideas to the challenges in the industry. The economic development future is bright with these young leaders."

Alyssa joined the Town of Fuquay-Varina in August 2020 after 9 successful years with the Chatham

Economic Development Corporation where she served as President of that organization. Fuquay-Varina is one of the fastest growing municipalities in North Carolina and located in a region that competes in an international marketplace. As the Economic Development Director for the Town of Fuquay-Varina, Alyssa will continue to work to realize the Town's assets, opportunities, and development potential.

"Alyssa joined the Town of Fuquay-Varina with a great deal of experience. We knew she was top-notch, and she proves it each and every day. The Town Board is excited that she is a part of our organization and community and look forward to the value that she will add toward helping Fuquay-Varina achieve its economic development goals", said Mayor John W. Byrne.

"Management and staff are very proud of this well-deserved recognition for Alyssa. She is a great ambassador for the Town and is a dedicated professional. We feel fortunate that she is a part of our team and have no doubt that she will continue to do great things for Fuquay-Varina", said Town Manager Adam Mitchell.

"The economic development industry is in good hands with these rising leaders," said Todd Jorgenson, managing director and principal of Jorgenson Consulting, Inc. "The communities they represent—from Tuxpan, Mexico to Covington, Kentucky to Québec, Canada—are fortunate to have the smart, innovative ideas of this year's winners."

DCI and Jorgenson officially announced the winners on March 16th at a virtual awards reception held in conjunction with the International Economic Development Council Leadership Summit.

For more information on the 40 Under 40 awards program and this year's winners, visit econdev40under40.com.

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About the Town of Fuquay-Varina

The Town of Fuquay-Varina is located approximately 15 minutes outside of Raleigh and is one of the fastest growing towns in the state of North Carolina. Fuquay-Varina is a dynamic, inclusive, and caring community that provides exceptional service while offering economic opportunity, sense of place, and an unmatched quality of life. www.fuquay-varina.org

About DCI

Considered the leader in marketing places, Development Counsellors International (DCI) specializes in economic development and tourism marketing. The agency has designed integrated marketing campaigns for more than 500 cities, regions, states and countries since it was established in New York City in 1960. Services include public relations, branding, research, websites, paid media, and talent attraction. www.aboutdci.com

About Jorgenson Consulting

Founded in 1992, Jorgenson Consulting has worked diligently over the past 29 years to establish itself as a premier national executive search firm. With a focus on the fields of non-profit, economic and community development, we partner with our clients to help them identify and secure the highest caliber of executive talent. Our goal is to develop a thorough understanding of our clients and leverage that knowledge with our own expertise and resources to source executive talent that can truly serve the organization by yielding economic benefits while also contributing to a community's competitive advantage. www.jci-inc.net

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