



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

Appointed Boards Application

If you are a Town of Hillsborough resident and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please complete this form. Volunteers for the Parks and Recreation Board must be at least 13 years old, and volunteers for all other boards must be at least 18 years old.

The town strives to reflect the diversity of its residents in the makeup of its boards. Demographics and residence location are considered during the appointment process.

First name (required):

Sara

Last name (required):

Riek

Home address (required):

419 Elfin Blvd

Home phone number:

440-840-8640

Work phone number:

440-840-8640

Email address (required):

sarariek@gmail.com

Place of employment:

The Expedition School

Job title:

Middle School History Teacher

Birth date (required):

May 15, 1988

Gender (required):

Female

Ethnic origin (check all that apply) (required):

White

First choice (required):

Historic District Commission

Second choice (required):

None

Third choice (required):

None

Reasons for wanting to serve (required):

Last year my husband and I were part of the government 101 class and loved it. We believe that when you live in a community, you should be part of sustaining it and improving it. He recently joined the Water & Sewer Advisory Board and has enjoyed it. I would like to do my part and join my top interest board as well.

Additionally, I am a middle school history teacher at The Expedition School and am very interested our town's history.

I would be fascinated by in depth insight into how we preserve our history and make it meaningful for future generations.

Finally, I was on a board for a triangle based volunteer organization and my term expired last year. I am looking for a civic engagement opportunity to fill that vacancy.

Have you served or are you currently serving on a town board? If so, which ones and when? (required)?

I have not served on a town board but I served on a local non-profit board from 2019-2022.

Relevant work, volunteer or educational experience (required):

As a US history teacher my career lets me explore local, regional, and domestic history. I have a passion for history and have training in historical analysis and education. Each year I take my students on several walking field trips around Hillsborough to see historic sites. We are a project-based learning school and one year created a Black History tour of Hillsborough through doing local research.

I also have a lot of equity-based training and am a leader on my school's equity board. I believe in making history visible and equitable so that everyone can see themselves in a place's history.

I served on a non-profit board previously and was a vice-chair on that board for 2 years.

How are you connected to Hillsborough (live, work, play, shop, own property) (required)?

I have worked in Hillsborough at The Expedition School for 8 years. I fell in love with this town and encouraged my husband and I to move here. Currently, we own a house and live near the River Walk and Gold Park. We try to keep our dollars local and shop and play locally. I frequent the farmer's market, local trails, and parks. The mountain top at sunset is one of my favorite places!

Have you reviewed the Vision 2030 plan, and what are your thoughts about it (required)?

I really enjoyed looking through both the Vision 2030 plan and the Comprehensive Sustainability plan because they remind me why Hillsborough is such an amazing place. We want to preserve the historic character of Hillsborough, while also making it a sustainable place to live. I appreciate that sustainability relates to so many topics such as water usage, land usage, climate impact, affordable housing, and preservation methods. I particularly appreciated in the vision how it wants to make Hillsborough's history more equitable and inclusive of diverse populations and that it wants to celebrate the unique character of different neighborhoods. I also appreciated how the town aims to preserve the historic character but also utilize space and land optimally.

Have you reviewed other town documents (budget, strategy map, small area plans), and what are your thoughts about them?

Since the government 101 class both my husband and I have taken a larger interest in Hillsborough's future. Since he is on the Water & Sewer Advisory board we often discuss the future of the town, including the budget. I am particularly proud of Hillsborough's desire to put low-income housing and sustainability at the forefront of future plans. Balancing the budget shortfalls will be challenging.

What challenges do you see the town facing that could be addressed by the board or boards on which you wish to serve (required)?

My biggest goal of joining the board is to at a minimum maintain, and hopefully increase, equitable visibility of historic spaces in Hillsborough. We have a town with incredible history and countless identities have helped shape it for thousands of years through recent history. We face a political climate that pushes equity out of the forefront of historical preservation, but I believe Hillsborough is a perfect location to maintain equity-based preservation and continue to keep equity and inclusivity at the forefront of decision making.

I also envision Hillsborough's rapid growth as a challenge. We have incredible historic spaces that need to be preserved, while also balancing the increased tourism, visibility, traffic, and tight space for new growth. I am glad our vision prioritizes optimal land usage even within the historic district.

How did you hear about this opportunity (required)?

Internet

Check the box to confirm (required):

✓