



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

Advisory Board 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.

Name:

Richard von Furstenberg

Home address:

2600 Hooper Ct, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Home phone number:

8324523945

Email address:

rjvonfur@ncsu.edu

Place of employment:

NCSU

Job title:

Teaching assistant/graduate student

Birth date:

July 30, 1977

Gender:

Male

Ethnic origin:

White

Boards you would be willing to serve on:

First choice — Parks and Recreation Board

Reasons for wanting to serve:

I want to serve my community and positively influence the future of parks and recreational opportunities within Hillsborough. I am passionate about the role of play, and the outdoors, in mental and physical health, and want to further these values through work with the board. I feel strongly these benefits should be experienced by all members of society, and that ensuring that will require intentionality. Moreover, I view preserving wildlife, native species, and the environment as linked to our own well-being and would like to see those conservation efforts manifest in the parks and recreation space when possible.

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

N/A

Relevant work, volunteer or educational experience:

I am currently a second year PhD student in the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management Dept at North Carolina State University. I have completed courses on leisure theory, research methods in parks and recreation, and am the teaching assistant for (PRT380) in the department, an analysis and evaluation course designed around making evidenced based decisions in Parks and Recreation management. Our teaching model for that course is the Dorthea Dix Park Master Plan. My research focus is on conservation social science- how and why people make decisions about the outdoors. That said, I have little practical experience in P&R and am eager to learn from others on the board.

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

My family has lived in Hillsborough since 2013 when we purchased a home in Cornwallis Hills. We enjoy the parks - primarily Gold Park, the downtown food, and walking the wooded trail along the Eno Riverwalk. We do the majority

of our shopping in Hillsborough as well: Weaver St Co-op, Food Lion, Walmart, Home Depot etc. We also enjoy the Orange County Sportsplex for exercise, swimming, and ice skating. My partner works at Elon and I formerly worked at UNC and Duke, so Hillsborough made for a wonderful midpoint in terms of a place to live.

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

Yes I have reviewed the 2030 plan. The plan lays out a good road map that appears to strike a balance between promoting growth and maintaining the history and charm of Hillsborough. In terms of Parks and Recreation, I appreciate the focus on increasing connectivity between neighborhoods and parks. I think exploring other barriers to parks and recreation access (physical and otherwise) would be beneficial going forward. Additionally, I believe future visions of Parks and Recreation in Hillsborough would benefit from recognition of their ability to facilitate diversity, equity and inclusion in the community.

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

I have reviewed the budget, parks and recreation master plan, and the strategy map. I found all to be highly transparent and informative. I appreciated the detail, history, and vision in the parks master plan. The strategy map appears well focused on improving the quality of life for members of the community- I think it is important to make sure these written goals translate into action, and would like to affect that on some level.

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

I think diversity, equity, and inclusion will be a challenge that could be addressed by the Parks and Recreation board. A quick drive around Hillsborough reveals segregated neighborhoods (North vs South of Hwy 70 for example), a product of structural racism and consequent inequality. I believe parks and recreation space should benefit all members of the community in an equitable way, and that it can, and should be, a place where the community unites and mixes beyond their own neighborhood.

I also see preserving greenspace as a priority going forward. It is important that Hillsborough remain economically viable, and provide adequate housing, but it is imperative for our well-being, and that of the environment, that greenspace is protected as a component of Parks and Recreation policy.

How you heard about this opportunity:

Internet

Agreement:

✓ I have been advised that I am committing to attend the volunteer board's regular meetings. Attendance at the regular meetings shall be considered a prerequisite for maintaining membership on the board. The Board of Commissioners may declare a vacancy on the board because of non-attendance.