



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):

Gary

Last name (required):

Miller

Home address (required):

120 Fiori Hill Drive South

Home phone number:

[REDACTED]

Work phone number:

Email address (required):

[REDACTED]

Place of employment:

Retired

Job title:

Birth date (required):

Jan. 25, 1949

Gender (required):

Male

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

White

First choice (required):

Historic District Commission

Second choice (required):

Planning Board

Third choice (required):

Parks and Recreation Board

Reasons for wanting to serve (required):

I like to give back to the community I live in. In many towns I have lived in there are normally many vacancies on boards and I like to step up when I can. I'm also interested in the planning process and want to make sure that the community remains a desirable place to live.

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

No.

Relevant work, volunteer or educational experience (required):

I lived in Vermont most of my adult life. While there, I served on two planning commissions, one for 11 years (chair for 5 of those years), the other for one year before I moved to Hillsborough. I also served on a local school board for about seven years (chair for 3 of those years). During my college years, I spent one year in the Architecture program, one year in Landscape Architecture, and graduated with an Art Education degree from Rhode Island School of Design. I've also served on two HOA boards.

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

I have lived in Hillsborough for about two years now and expect to be here for many years. My wife and I are very happy with our neighborhood (Fiori Hill) and the proximity to the River Walk and Occoneechee Speedway. The downtown area is a draw for us with so many small businesses and being the County Seat gives the Town the base to prosper. I also do most of my shopping in Hillsborough to support local businesses. I'm also a frequent user of the tennis courts at Fairview Park.

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

Yes. The historical and as-is portion of the document is well written and comprehensive. I also like the emphasis on the implementation of goals and objectives. Although many of the objectives could be a part of the plan for any town, many are necessary to be a part of the Hillsborough vision. I think that the Hillsborough unique objectives are solidly based on the historical section and make sense. I have not read any of the Balanced Scorecard Reports yet but I believe that they would give a good indication of how well the vision is being implemented. Of the few items I'm familiar with, I believe we need to play some catch-up. For example, it doesn't look like Vision 2030 has been updated every five years.

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

I have looked at the zoning map and found it to be overly complicated. I feel there are too many districts with some of them encompassing only one or two properties. Clearly there is a need to update the zoning map and UDO to codify the policies set forth in Vision 2030.

Although it appears that there have been many updates to the UDO since it was written in 2011, the updates seem to be driven with specific issues in mind rather than a comprehensive update based on Vision 2030.

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

A big challenge will be to put Vision 2030 and other updated Comprehensive Plan elements into the UDO and zoning map. From experience, this activity will be closely scrutinized by residents, business owners, and developers and any zoning changes that take away or increase uses or standards will be challenged by one or more of these groups.

The higher-level documents like Vision 2030 are easy to agree on but when those ideas are put into practice, differences will surface.

Sometimes people want to widen the rules governing zoning and overlay districts like the Historic District. The Historic District Goal 1.A and supporting objectives laid out in Vision 2030 will need to be implemented by the HDC and Commission members with the help of staff. It is imperative that the standards set for this district be used to ensure that applicants understand and adhere to these standards.

How did you hear about this opportunity (required)?

Other

Check the box to confirm (required):

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