

800 First Terrace, Lansing, Kansas 66043 - Telephone: 913-727-3036 Fax: 913-828-4579 - www.lansingks.org

## APPLICATION FOR LANSING BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Name: Tim	CAHILL	
Lansing Address:	917 MOUNT CALVARY ROAD	
Home Phone:		
Secondary Phone:	913 - 483 - 1182	
E-mail: tim @	Marlow white. com	

Please attach a written statement expressing your interest in being appointed to the Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals. Your written statement should address the following four topics:

- 1. Qualifications for the position.
- 2. Personal philosophy of the Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals.
- 3. Desired accomplishments as a Board of Zoning Appeals Member.
- 3. Willingness to attend meetings on an as needed basis.

Also, attach the name, address, and telephone number of three personal references.

This volunteer position is for the Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals for a three (3) term ending April 30, 2025. Applicants must be a resident of Lansing, at least 18 years of age, and a U.S. Citizen.

All applications should be returned to Lansing City Hall, marked to the "Attention of the City Clerk" no later than 5pm on March 31, 2022.

July 1, 2022

City of Lansing Attn: Matthew Schmitz 800 First Terrace Lansing, KS 66043

SUBJECT: Application for Re-Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals

I am requesting consideration for re-appointment to the Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals. I have enclosed the requisite application.

As to qualifications, I have been a resident of Lansing for 25 years. I am a retired military officer who first encountered the greater Fort Leavenworth area when I was a student at the Command and General Staff College from 1992-1993. My wife and I fell in love with the area then and decided to relocate here for our last tour before retiring in 2000. We purchased our home in Lansing because we were impressed with the medium-sized town atmosphere — a city that was implementing a great vision for continued improvement; that had a fantastic environment to raise our family; and that was a friendly and vibrant community. I bring a combination of qualifications that I think can add some diverse perspective to the board:

- 1) I am currently one of the owners of Marlow White Uniforms, Inc., in Leavenworth. As a business owner I can understand the importance of zoning ordinances to a business, both as a direct impact as it may potentially affect an individual business and as an indirect impact of proper ordinances to keep a community safe, growing and vibrant for people who become customers for the businesses of the community.
- 2) I was a registered Professional Engineer (Civil) for 25 years. Since I am not practicing in my role as an owner of Marlow White Uniforms, I allowed my Kansas registration to expire because I chose not to keep my Continuing Education current. I attended the United States Military Academy (BS Engineering, 1980) and Purdue University (MS Civil Engineering, 1989).
- 3) I served 20 years as an officer, retiring as a Lt. Colonel in the US Army Corps of Engineers. As such, I understand the vital importance of open and public meetings, due process, and the balance between public and private interests concerning infrastructure needs.

My personal philosophy concerning role of the Board of Zoning Appeals is also one of balance and can be summarized as follows:

1) Zoning ordinances should be viewed not much so as constraints and hindrances to individual property owners, but as mechanisms by which a community can

SUBJECT: Application for Re-Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals

preserve safety and gradually improve welfare, function, and appearance over time.

- 2) Property owners should have as much liberty as possible to use their property as they see fit within the confines of community safety and well-being.
- 3) Zoning ordinances cannot possibly define every combination of situation and location, so appeals for variations to the zoning ordinances are essential to a vibrant and healthy community.
- 4) The Lansing City Staff should serve the citizens of Lansing by "doing things right" interpreting the ordinances to the letter, but having a duty within the community to assist property owners in the appeal process (which from my perspective, they do so admirably).
- 5) By contrast, the Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals should focus on "doing the right thing" applying common sense and judgment when evaluating variations.
- 6) The members of the Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals are recommended by the Mayor and the City Staff and appointed/approved by the City Council. As such, the members are answerable to the citizens of Lansing and hold a position of trust to act in their behalf.

My desired accomplishments as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals is a direct reflection of my philosophy above. As an appeals body, the board is by nature "reactive" in function, so an underlying agenda or tangible goal that we envision is not appropriate. Rather, my primary desired accomplishment is to be known as a "judicious" member -a member who is discerning and sound in judgment as we balance the spirit and intent of the zoning ordinances that the City Council has enacted with the needs of the city, the community, and the appealing individual.

For consideration, I submit three personal references:

- 1) Frank Melero, 1401 Sycamore Ridge Drive, 704-7905 (neighbor).
- 2) Dan Greer, 520 Chestnut, Leavenworth, 651-6358 (President, Marlow White Uniforms).
- 3) Rick Schneider, 630 Delaware, Leavenworth, 772-1776 (President, Exchange National Bank).

July 1, 2022

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The City Staff has done a fantastic job of scheduling the as-needed meetings and working with our schedules, so I have had very little problem with conflicts that would prevent me from attending the meetings.

In closing, I am both humbled and proud – proud to be able to serve the community of Lansing in this way in the past, and humbled by the responsibility of the position in serving the people of Lansing.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Cahill