

Mayor
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Councilmembers
Tom French
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Lorri Bodi
Tracy Fururtani
Larry Goldman
Jon Lebo
Semra Riddle

Commissioner/Board Member Application

*Please fill out your completed application and send it to mayor@cityofflp.com or mail it to:

Lake Forest Park City Hall
Commissioner Application
17425 Ballinger Way NE
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

Name	Meredith LaBonte
Address	LFP, WA 98155
Evening Phone	
Daytime Phone	Same
Email Address	
Date of Application	March 17, 2022

1. Which commission or board are you interested in? Planning Commission
2. Do you live in Lake Forest Park? Yes
3. How long have you lived in Lake Forest Park? 1 Year Moved from Phinney Ridge, Seattle
4. What are your interests in our City and what experiences or special knowledge can you bring to the commission?

Since civic participation is vital for a thriving community, I have been considering how I could serve my fellow neighbors and citizens. With my eyes open for needs, I read about the vacancy on the Lake Forest Park Planning Commission while reading the Spring LFP Times. I have, after reading the

current documents about the sign regulation and watching the March Commission recording, realized I would be a good fit for this position. I am eager to learn all about the issues that come before the commission so that I could be a part of an informed recommendation to the city council. As a homeschool mom, I have often been required to immerse myself in an unfamiliar topic in order to effectively teach my own children or others in co-op groups. Because of this, I am confident I could, with enthusiasm, become well versed in sign regulation or any other topic set before me, in order to give a helpful recommendation to the city council.

5. What do you hope to accomplish as a commissioner?

My goal would be to understand federal, state, and local laws and with that knowledge make informed recommendations, along with my fellow commissioners, to the city council. I would strive to balance individual liberties with the communal needs and wishes of all those who live in Lake Forest Park.

6. If you are appointed to a commission you will be required to attend monthly meetings. Are you available to attend evening meetings? yes

7. In addition to monthly meetings, there are often additional time commitments. Do you anticipate this being a problem for you? No

8. Do you have any issues that you are especially concerned about and think the commission should be addressing?

No, my desire to be on the commission stems from a desire to be a public servant and not a particular issue I want addressed.

9. Do you have any additional information or comments?

I would like to offer some thoughts that, had I been a commissioner during the March meeting, I would have offered.

1) There was some confusion about which rules applied to various types of signs based on the zone they were in, ie Town Center vs Residential vs Commercial etc. My recommendation would be to organize the legal document by the various zones.

- (1) Rm and Rs Zones
 - (a) allowed signs
 - (b) prohibited signs
 - (c) temporary sign rules
- (2) CC and BN Zone
 - (a) allowed signs
 - (b) prohibited signs
 - (c) temporary sign rules
- (3) TC Zone
 - (a) allowed signs
 - (b) prohibited signs
 - (c) temporary sign rules

By separating the legal description in this way, I believe it would more clearly communicate the rules for each zone and avoid confusion. In addition, residents would be able to flip to the pertinent area without needlessly being overburdened with rules that do not apply to their needs. For example, if I was wanting to put a small sign in my yard, I would want, in one very concise location, wording that would pertain to residential signs without being overwhelmed with language that only pertained to TC or Commercial signs. Likewise, if I was a business owner, I would want to find the rules that applied to Commercial property without being confused with language that concerned a homeowner.

- 2) Commissioner Gross suggested that signs should have dates and citizens should be able to throw away signs in the public right of way after a certain date. While I really like this idea, how would the city be able to confirm that this citizen waited until the time was up? Would photo documentation be required so as not to have neighbors accusing one another of taking signs down prematurely?
- 3) There was not mention of regulating obscene and offensive text or pictures on signs. I know that the free speech protection requires signs to be judged without reference to their content, however, typically obscene and offensive language is usually an exception to this first amendment concern. It would seem to be something to at least bring up.

Thank you for your interest in Lake Forest Park volunteer commissions.

Information on City Commissions and Boards

Thank you for your interest in becoming a commissioner. Members of all commissions and boards provide an important link between the public, City departments, the City Council and the Mayor. The information that members provide about community needs and opinions can have a profound effect on local policies and lead to improved public service. Advisory commission and board members play a very special role in creating recommendations on important societal and governmental issues.

Appointed members of an advisory commission are expected to:

- Listen carefully to community opinions, attitudes, and needs and report to the Mayor and the Council;
- Study programs and services and analyze problems and needs;
- Offer new proposals and recommend changes in programs, policies, and standards;
- Provide the public with information and interpretation of policies, programs, and budgets.

Commissions make important recommendations about policy. Commissions, however, do not create or administer policy, programs, or services. Advisory commissions do not have the authority to enforce policy or create rules, but their analysis and recommendations can play an important role in furthering the effective operation of City government.

The Volunteer Commission System is described in the Chapter 2.22 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code. It names the commissions and their responsibilities.

- A. Planning Commission.** Develops the City's comprehensive plan and updates for recommendation to the Mayor and the City Council and performs other duties as required by law.
- B. Civil Service Commission.** Police personnel as required by state law. The additional duties of this commission shall be defined in the civil service code of the City.

Boards established by City Code

Ch. 2.35.010 Tree Board. Makes policy and regulatory recommendations concerning the management of trees and forest canopy in Lake Forest Park.

Ch. 2.37.010 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Advises the city council and mayor on park master plan development, recreation program evaluation and development, and park comprehensive planning.

Commissioners and board members are nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The term is three years. For more information, you can get a copy of the Commissioner's Manual on the City website or at City Hall. You can call the Mayor directly at (206) 368-5440.