



Executive Summary

City Council Workshop

AGENDA ITEM: Planning Commission Board Applications
PREPARED BY: Jacob Kolander, City Administrator
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion & Decision

Summary: Review and consider appointments to the Maple Plain Planning Commission

We currently have two vacancies on the Planning Commission and have received two applications

David Chard

Background & Experience:

- Retired from Michigan Technological University after 28 years, including 15 years as Director of Media Technology Solutions.
- Extensive experience in strategic planning, policy implementation, facility design, and master planning.
- Served 12 years in local government in Stanton Township, MI as Deputy Clerk, Trustee, and Supervisor, overseeing parks, roads, elections, and public facilities.

Volunteer & Civic Engagement:

- Deep involvement in township governance and community collaboration.
- Proven ability to balance growth with resource management and public input.

Goals for Planning Commission:

- Preserve Maple Plain's small-town character.
- Promote balanced growth and infrastructure improvements.
- Prioritize public engagement and protection of natural areas like Pioneer Creek.

Strengths:

- Strong leadership and planning background.
- Direct experience in municipal governance and infrastructure.
- Committed to thoughtful, community-centered development.

Nick Buller

Background & Experience:

- Holds dual B.S. degrees in Urban Studies (focus in Urban Planning) and Human Resources Development, plus an M.S. in Information Systems Management.
- Early career in urban planning with the City of Alexandria, MN.
- Worked in planning and analysis roles for Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.
- Currently employed at the University of Minnesota's Office of Information Technology.

Volunteer & Civic Engagement:

- Teaching assistant roles in leadership and data analytics programs.
- Participated in service projects including home building in Mexico and Feed My Starving Children.

Goals for Planning Commission:

- Support infrastructure improvements that promote active living and connectivity.
- Advocate for sustainable development that preserves Maple Plain's natural beauty.
- Learn from city staff and commissioners to better understand local challenges and opportunities.

Strengths:

- Strong academic and professional foundation in urban planning and data analysis.
- Passionate about sustainable development and active transportation.
- Brings a fresh perspective and enthusiasm for community engagement.

Recommendation:

Both applicants bring valuable experience and perspectives to the Planning Commission. David Chard offers seasoned leadership and municipal governance experience, while Nick Buller contributes a strong planning background and a data-driven approach to sustainable development. Council may consider appointing one or both candidates, Staff recommends appointing both candidates.