

PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Applicant: Matthew Favro

39510 Hood Street, Sandy

1. Why do you want to join the Parks and Trails Advisory Board?

Love the trails and parks in Sandy

2. What experience do you have that would be helpful for this position? What qualities and expertise would you bring to the Board?

I don't have any planning experience, but I am a father and have experience bringing children to parks and trails

3. What do you know about Sandy's Parks and Trails?

Any plans on future trails or parks

4. What do you believe are the most important issues and challenges facing Sandy's Parks and Trails?

Trail maintenance, fallen trees and blackberry bushes overtaking paths. Sandy River trail at the lower end needs improvements

5. **The City adopted a new Parks and Trails Master Plan in 2022. Which projects in the plan do you think should be prioritized first, and why?**

Trail 14 and 16 need the most help. T20 would be a nice addition to an extensive trail system that would probably be quickest done

6. **Are you available to meet once a month for the Board meeting? (Typically the second Wednesday evening of each month)**

Yes

7. **Resume (optional)**

Provided

PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Applicant: Will Toogood

38336 Hood Street, Sandy

1. Why do you want to join the Parks and Trails Advisory Board?

I am passionate about our parks and trails, as an avid user and a resident of Sandy for the last 24 years, I want to give back to the community that has given my family and me so much.

2. What experience do you have that would be helpful for this position? What qualities and expertise would you bring to the Board?

It has been my privilege to serve on the Parks and Trail Advisory Board since 2021. During my tenure I have contributed to every meeting I have attended with no unexcused absence's. I am proud to have enacted change in the parks and trails system including the addition of trail crossing signage for Tickle Creek and Dubarko road.

My skills in my professional life as a Project Manager include;

- A high level of verbal and written communication
- Skilled in developing joint goals based on group consensus
- Transparency of cost targets and budget performance

3. What do you know about Sandy's Parks and Trails?

As a contributing team member to the 2022 Parks and Trails Master Plan I have knowledge and appreciation for the City's Parks and Trails assets, locations, and projects that I did not have beforehand.

4. What do you believe are the most important issues and challenges facing Sandy's Parks and Trails?

- Capturing the community's input in a fair manner as to how funds are allocated to new parks and trails, then navigating any negative perceptions after decisions are implemented.
- Finding funding in addition to SDC's such as grants
- Understanding that there are ongoing costs of maintaining new parks and trails, and making decisions up front, even though the one time cost appears more expensive, to minimize those costs.

5. The City adopted a new Parks and Trails Master Plan in 2022. Which projects in the plan do you think should be prioritized first, and why?

- Implement the full re-do of Mienig park. This is one of our jewels and the center for numerous events, long past due for an overhaul as well as improvements in accessibility and safety.
- Sandy River Park phase 1. I believe this is an underutilized asset.
- Highway 211 pedestrian tunnel. Highway 211 cuts off our SE assets from our SW assets and visa-versa. This would also allow for extension of Tickle Creek Trail

6. Are you available to meet once a month for the Board meeting? (Typically the second Wednesday evening of each month)

Yes

7. Resume (optional)

Provided

PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Applicant: Upekala Wijayratne

39064 Dubarko Road, Sandy

1. Why do you want to join the Parks and Trails Advisory Board?

I believe that outdoor spaces and recreation are necessary for a healthy community. As technology continues to dominate more of our lives both at work and in our free time, I feel that it's critical to continue to offer alternative recreating options especially to young people in the community. We are lucky to be next door to an amazing national forest but some may find it difficult to visit so having natural spaces in town that are more easily accessible is important for those residents.

2. What experience do you have that would be helpful for this position? What qualities and expertise would you bring to the Board?

I am an ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service and work on the Siuslaw, Willamette, Mt. Hood national forests and the Columbia River National Scenic Area. I can bring my expertise in managing natural areas to the Tickle Creek trail and the Sandy River Park. I have worked in government for over 20 years and am familiar with serving communities and the public. And though this role is as a representative of the community/public, I think my experience working in government will give me a unique perspective.

3. What do you know about Sandy's Parks and Trails?

Sandy has great parks and trails. I am a frequent user of the Tickle Creek trail and Meinig Park as part of my dog walking loop through neighborhoods. When we want something with a little more adventure but still in town we go to the Sandy River trail or Cedar Park trail. My husband is a frequent user of the skatepark at Cedar Park.

4. **What do you believe are the most important issues and challenges facing Sandy's Parks and Trails?**

Because of my ecology background, my mind goes to dealing with extreme weather events (flooding, freezing) and drought. How to keep infrastructure and natural plant communities resilient in the face of these pressures.

5. **The City adopted a new Parks and Trails Master Plan in 2022. Which projects in the plan do you think should be prioritized first, and why?**

I would love to see Tickle Creek be extended east and some kind of safe crossing of highway 211 put in place.

6. **Are you available to meet once a month for the Board meeting? (Typically the second Wednesday evening of each month)**

Yes

7. **Resume (optional)**

Provided

TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Applicant: Joe Smith

37167 Coralburst Street, Sandy

1. Please explain your interest in serving on the Transit Advisory Board

I am retired but spent over thirty years of my career in government service. Whenever possible, I have had an interest in serving on public service entities and organizations and have derived much personal satisfaction in doing so. Over the years, I have served or continue to serve on the following: Kiwanis, Rotary Club, Western Oregon University Finance and Advisory Committee, Polk County Fire Board, United Way of Clark County Nevada, Sandy Fire Department Budget Committee, Sandy Net Board of Directors, Las Vegas Youth Sports, Monmouth Youth Sports, Grand Canyon Village Home Owners Association, Las Vegas, NV, , and Bank Secrecy Act Advisory Group, Washington, D.C.

2. Do you have experience riding public transit? Please tell us about your experience.

For twelve years, I was employed by a federal commission located in Washington, D.C. For much of that time, I lived in Alexander, VA and commuted into the District. Accordingly, I would take a bus from my residence to the Pentagon Metro Station. From there, I boarded the Metro high speed rail service crossing the Potomac River and proceeding on to the McPherson Square Station, which was best case a 45 minute commute.

3. What knowledge, education, or skills would you bring to the Board?

My work experience was in the gaming industry and, more specifically, the regulatory oversight of it. Accordingly, my focus was in the conduct of financial audits and financial/criminal investigations. In conjunction therewith, I obtained the following professional certifications: Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified in Financial Forensics, and Certified Government Audit Professional.

4. Sandy adopted a new Transit Master Plan in 2020. Which projects in the plan do you think are the most important, and why?

I believe the first priority of the transit system is to provide a public service benefit to the residents of Sandy. Accordingly, those possessing the greatest need should command the highest priority. Of the projects noted in the Plan, enhancing the service to the Vista Apartments and providing transportation for the elderly and disabled would appear to warrant the highest priority. Furthermore, if demand warrants, it would be good to ensure students attending the community college have a public transportation option.

5. As a board member, would you be comfortable being a SAM ambassador/advocate to the public? Please explain.

I would have no concerns whatsoever being a SAM ambassador/advocate. During my career, it was not uncommon for me to speak at conferences across the country, inclusive of special interest groups, i.e., Organization of US Attorneys. I have also testified before the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

6. Resume (optional)

Provided

TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

Applicant: John Gipe

54990 E Shady Lane

1. Please explain your interest in serving on the Transit Advisory Board

I am the general manager of Sandy Cinema, the trolley stops at our front door and uses our parking lot as a turn around. My children ride the buses to and from various activities and my wife is the Road Supervisor for the transit company.

2. Do you have experience riding public transit? Please tell us about your experience.

Yes, I have ridden to Timberline and back multiple times

3. What knowledge, education, or skills would you bring to the Board?

Community minded with access to information and insight not available to others.

4. Sandy adopted a new Transit Master Plan in 2020. Which projects in the plan do you think are the most important, and why?

Any and all are up for consideration but none is more important than the other. Transit needs to serve our community equally.

5. As a board member, would you be comfortable being a SAM ambassador/advocate to the public? Please explain.

Absolutely, transit can transport members of our community to and from daily activities in addition to opening other opportunities for recreation and employment.

6. Resume (optional)

Not provided

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Applicant: Arehn McCarty

53236 E Marmot Rd

1. **Why are you interested in serving on the Library Advisory Board and what experiences make you qualified to serve?**

I see the library as the heart of any community and want to support it in the best way I can. As a retired grade school teacher I am familiar with the needs of school aged children and their parents.

2. **In your opinion, what are the main issues facing libraries today? What issues do you specifically see for the Sandy and Hoodland Libraries?**

I think most people get their data on line. Finding out how to reach people and bring them into the library. I think both libraries are doing a great job of bringing people in for things other than books.

3. **As you may know, the Hoodland Library is a small branch with limited resources. With that in mind, how would you advocate for the library's needs and priorities?**

Talking to the people who live in the area and how they use it. I just met two people who go to the ongoing crafters meetings. Find what they feel is needed

4. The Sandy and Hoodland Libraries will soon have another branch - the Mobile Library. In your opinion, how should we use this new vehicle to effectively provide library services for specific groups, such as the elderly or those in institutional settings?

I love the idea of being to go to where the people are who cannot (or at least it's more difficult) get to the library. I see the mobile library visiting places where there are many people (like a nursing home) that can request books as well as browse in the vehicle. I also see it reaching some people who do not have the ability to be on line and offering them important brief internet services.

5. What kind of Library resources have you utilized?

I have borrowed books, CDs, DVDs, and video tapes. I have used the seed library and the library of things. I have purchased books from the Book nook. I have attended meetings and events in the community room.

6. Resume (optional)

Provided

PLANNING COMMISSION

Applicant: Darren Wegener

37720 Coralburst Street, Sandy

1. Why are you interested in serving on the City of Sandy Planning Commission? What skills, experience, and expertise can you contribute as a Planning Commissioner?

I am interested in continuing to serve on the City of Sandy Planning Commission because I care deeply about thoughtful, responsible growth and believe in giving back to my community. Serving as Chair in my previous term has shown me how impactful this work can be, and I want to continue helping Sandy plan for a future that supports families, businesses, and the overall quality of life that makes this city special. My wife and I are raising our two children here, and it's important to me that Sandy remains a place they will want to call home as adults.

During my term, I have helped with the completion and approval of the City's comprehensive plan, supported the development of a new economic development plan, and participated in updating sections of city code. I also helped the Commission through the challenges of a construction moratorium, where our focus shifted to long-range planning and policy development. Professionally, my work with the City of Portland in permitting, development services, and training provides me with a strong understanding of development review, process improvement, and collaborative problem-solving—skills that directly benefit my service as a commissioner. I aim to continue contributing a balanced, thoughtful, and community-focused perspective to the Planning Commission.

2. What do you believe are the most important considerations that the Planning Commission should take into account when reviewing development proposals?

When reviewing development proposals, I believe the Planning Commission should start by looking at how well a project fits within the City's comprehensive plan and our long-term vision for Sandy. That includes making sure proposals meet our development code, align with state planning requirements, and support responsible, predictable growth. It's also important to understand the intent behind the code—not just the literal wording—so that decisions reflect the broader goals the City is trying to achieve. Keeping our decisions grounded in these principles helps ensure fairness, transparency, and consistency for applicants and the community.

It's equally important to consider the real-world impacts a proposal may have on the surrounding neighborhood and the community as a whole. Factors like traffic, infrastructure capacity, environmental considerations, and overall compatibility with the area all play a role. Public input is also a key part of the process, as it helps us understand how a project aligns with community values. Ultimately, the goal is to balance these considerations and work toward a fair, practical resolution—one that supports growth while preserving the qualities that make Sandy a great place to live.

3. Do you have any conflicts that may prevent you from making an unbiased decision concerning Planning Commission agenda items? Please explain.

I do not have any conflicts that would prevent me from making unbiased decisions on Planning Commission agenda items. I take the Commission's role very seriously and understand the importance of approaching every application fairly, objectively, and with an open mind.

4. How do you stay informed about the issues and concerns facing our community, especially those related to land use and development? What do you think are the most important development issues the City will have to face over the next ten (10) years?

I stay informed about the issues and concerns facing our community by staying engaged with Planning Commission work, City Council discussions, staff reports, and updates from our planning and public works teams. I also monitor regional planning efforts and state land use requirements to understand how broader trends may impact Sandy. Outside of formal city processes, I stay closely connected to the community through my service on the City's Economic Development Board and my involvement in the Chamber of Commerce, where I serve on the Career and Education Committee. These roles give me regular, direct insight into the needs of local businesses, workforce challenges, and the priorities of residents. Hearing from community members—whether through public testimony, community events, or informal conversations—helps me understand not only policy impacts but also how people experience growth in their daily lives.

Looking forward, I believe Sandy's most important development challenges over the next ten years begin with navigating the impacts of the moratorium and the limited distribution of ERUs. The constraints of our current infrastructure have shown the importance of planning carefully for future capacity. As the city grows, we will need to thoughtfully balance how ERUs are allocated—ensuring we can support the increased housing needed to meet state housing density requirements while also reserving capacity for commercial and industrial development that helps drive economic growth and provides local jobs. Striking this balance, while keeping our community's livability goals at the forefront and aligning development decisions with our comprehensive plan, will be essential as Sandy moves into its next decade of growth.

5. **This question covers a potential scenario. In this scenario, assume there is a controversial land use issue before the Planning Commission. How would you reconcile your personal opinions if they conflict with Sandy's development code, comprehensive plan, and/or state requirements? How comfortable would you be making decisions that may be at odds with your own preferences, and that may be viewed unfavorably in the community?**

For the past 4 years as a Planning Commissioner and Chair, I have dealt with controversial land use issues many times, and I understand that personal opinions must sometimes take a back seat to the responsibilities of the role. When my own views differ from Sandy's development code, comprehensive plan, or state requirements, I focus on applying the rules objectively and fairly. This includes understanding the intent behind the code, so that I can help find solutions that meet the needs of the applicant, the community, and the city. I carefully review all materials, consider staff recommendations, and listen to public testimony to make decisions grounded in policy, code, and the long-term goals of the city.

I am comfortable making decisions that may conflict with my own preferences or that may be unpopular in the community. My experience has shown me that leadership on the Commission often requires putting the integrity of the process and the community's interests above personal opinions. By seeking solutions that balance different perspectives and address the needs of multiple stakeholders, I work to ensure that decisions are transparent, consistent, and legally sound, while maintaining trust and credibility in the Commission even during challenging or high-profile issues.

6. **The Planning Commission typically meets once a month at night, but sometimes the volume of material requires additional meetings, including joint work sessions with the City Council. Does your schedule afford you adequate time to review packets and attend meetings at night? What are potential conflicts that might arise?**

Yes, my schedule allows me to dedicate the necessary time to review Planning Commission packets and attend evening meetings, including additional sessions or joint work sessions with City Council. As Chair, I have consistently managed the time required to prepare thoroughly for meetings, review materials in detail, and participate fully in discussions. I understand the importance of being well-prepared so that decisions are thoughtful, informed, and in the best interest of the community.

At this time, I do not anticipate any conflicts that would prevent me from attending meetings or completing the required review of materials. I am committed to maintaining the availability and focus needed to fulfill my responsibilities as a Planning Commissioner.

7. **Resume (required)**

Provided