



Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the City of Stevenson's Planning Commission. I believe the Planning Commission plays a critical role in ensuring that decisions are thoughtful, forward-looking, and grounded in both community input and sound policy.

Stevenson's unique identity, with its natural beauty, small-town feel, and strong sense of community, is something I value greatly. As an eight-year resident of Stevenson, I am particularly interested in ensuring that, as the city grows, planning decisions reflect balanced growth that maintains the character of our town while responsibly preparing for the future.

My interests include supporting housing availability across income levels so that people who live and work here can continue to be part of the community. I also care about environmental stewardship. Given Stevenson's location and the importance of its shoreline and surrounding natural resources, I believe planning decisions should prioritize long-term sustainability, protection of waterways, resilience to climate impacts, and thoughtful land use that reflects both ecological responsibility and community needs. Lastly, public engagement is another area I am passionate about. I believe that planning decisions are strongest when they are informed by meaningful community input and transparent processes.

I believe my professional and volunteer background has given me the experience to be a helpful contributor to the Planning Commission. I have worked in government at both the state and county levels, where I developed an understanding of how to balance public input with regulatory requirements and policy frameworks. In addition, I served for 13 years as Chair and Vice Chair of my neighborhood association in Portland, Oregon. In that role, I helped review land-use variance requests, facilitated community discussions, and ensured broad participation in decision-making processes. I served for several years on the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Foster Transportation and Streetscape Plan, a state-funded Transportation and Growth Management effort. Currently, I serve on the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, where I learn about and help address business and community concerns and priorities.

I feel closely aligned with many of Stevenson's Comprehensive Plan goals and appreciate its focus on managing growth while preserving the qualities that make Stevenson special. My approach is to be both pragmatic and optimistic, recognizing the realities of growth and change while working to shape outcomes that reflect shared community values.

I would be honored to contribute my experience, perspective, and commitment to the City of Stevenson in this capacity.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Tracy Gratto, MSW