

## **Planning Board**

### **Applicant Package - Alternate 1**

Planning Board - Alternate 1

**Term:**01 Nov 2022 - 31 Dec 2024

**Positions Available:** 1

**Number of applicants in this package:** 1

- Kanwischer, Derek

**Name** :Kanwischer, Derek

**Mailing Address** :1530 Phillips Street, Missoula, MT, 59802

**Email Address** :dhkanwischer@gmail.com

**Board Name** :Planning Board

**Daytime Phone** :406-579-3244

**Is your mailing address different than your physical address? :**

No

**Physical Address** :1530 Phillips Street Missoula, MT

**Zip Code** :59802

**How long have you been a city resident? :**12

**In which ward do you reside? :**

Ward 2

**Are you registered to vote? :**

Yes

**Current Occupation** :Program Coordinator

**Current Employer** :University of Montana

**Briefly describe your educational background :**

I have earned dual graduate degrees from UM's Master of Public Administration and Environmental Studies Graduate Program. I pursued coursework, research, and project within my MPA degree specifically to apply my work to public service. Also at UM, I have pursued coursework and research in pursuit of my PhD in social structures which influence sustainable communities. Prior to graduate school, I completed a bachelors in Geography from MSU Bozeman with an emphasis in community design and planning. I also possess professional training and certificates in Zero Waste (TRUE Advisor) and the International Society of Sustainability Professional's Sustainability Excellence Associate credential. I have applied theory to practice in my career through a variety of positions in higher education, non-profits, and local government.

**List of community service experience :**

My most recent formal community service experience has been with my local NS/WS neighborhood working group known as CREW (Community Rising for Equity and Wellbeing). I am currently a member of the NS/WS Neighborhood Leadership Team and been engaged with the North Missoula Community Development Corporation staff and Board of Directors. I have participated in a variety of Missoula planning efforts which influence affordable housing, development projects, zoning updates, transportation upgrades, and more. As a graduate student and beyond I served on the Board of Directors with Homewood for 3 years including review of development proposals, strategic planning, and asset management roles. I contributed to and led a variety of committees associated with my employer in Higher Education and in the community. For the past 4 years I have served on UM's Staff Senate and Professional Development Committee. I have served on UM's Sustainable Campus Committee, led working groups to advance Zero Waste initiatives, and served on the steering committee for UM's Strategic Enrollment Planning efforts. In addition to those already listed, I am involved with a variety of sustainability and conservation organizations in a volunteer capacity to help advance the vision and objectives that enhance our community.

**What is your interest in serving on this board, commission or committee? :**

My professional education, life partner, and work experience and extracurriculars have me invested in Missoula as my home. I reluctantly left Missoula because I needed a job that could support myself and my life partner. We moved back to Missoula four years later because we missed the sense of community, friends, family, and access to public lands and natural amenities that give our lives a sense of appreciation and adventure. I recognize that I am fortunate and privileged to live in Missoula. I have a college education, general good health, nurturing relationships, and I even own a home with my partner in Missoula, MT. Growing up, I never had the perspective to appreciate the nuance of social or economic disparities around me. As I have acquired life experience, these are challenging concepts many of us are increasingly confronting. For example, how do we strive to improve our own life circumstances while acknowledging how our decisions and lifestyle choices may impact those around us. I have lived in many rental homes and properties in Missoula before saving enough money make a down payment and purchase a home. Many of my friends and colleagues have not been as fortunate as I and have had to move away from Missoula due to the increasing cost of housing in our community. As a lifelong learner invested in Missoula, I want to help our neighbors, elected officials, and planning staff to make the most informed decisions to continually improve the health, safety, and welfare of our Missoula citizens. With my life experience in program leadership rooted in sustainability, I bring a systems perspective to understand the long term effects and influences of our development proposals, reviews, and alternatives. I want to be a resource to help this community develop sustainably while acknowledging the ancestral history of this region and retain the amenities that make Missoula the nurturing and thriving place we like to call our home.

**What special knowledge, interest, or experience do you possess that would qualify you for a position on this board commission, or committee? :**

For the past 10 years I have worked in Higher Education at universities in Montana and Michigan. Each of these localities involved projects and programs that interfaced with city, county, and university planning departments. I have managed model properties seeking to advance sustainability principles that have required coordinated planning with university, public, and agency representatives to meet and sometimes influence changes in local planning ordinances to advance the infrastructure and programming objectives I have been a project manager for. In 2019 & 2020 I served as the Complete Count Committee Coordinator for the 2020 Census. In this capacity, I was the subject matter expert and coordinated communications and outreach efforts with a broad array of city, county, and community stakeholders to ensure we were able to reach “hard to count” communities and underrepresented individuals in Missoula County. Each of these experiences, my education, and community experience align with my qualifications and aspirations to serve on this committee. I do not claim to have all of the qualities of a seasoned committee member and that is what inspires me most—is the chance to learn amongst my peers, colleagues, and neighbors about the issues that matter most. In this role, I hope to represent the values that have and will continue to make Missoula the community we are proud of and want to contribute to.

**Reference 1 Name** :Jeff Spoelstra

**Reference 2 Name** :Theo Smith

**Time of Submission** :11/17/22 2:48:25 PM

**Attachments:**

- Kanwischer resume 221115.pdf

Sustainability professional with 10+ years in program management, public administration, and community organizing experience with non-profits, local government, consulting firms, and universities

✦ ISSP Sustainability Excellence Associate ✦ TRUE Zero Waste Advisor ✦ Organizing Leadership Institute ✦

## EDUCATION

**Master of Public Administration**, Public Policy and Non-Profit Management emphasis  
University of Montana (UM) | Missoula, Montana

**Master of Science**, Environmental Studies  
University of Montana (UM) | Missoula, Montana

**Bachelor of Science**, Earth Sciences, Physical and Human Geography: Planning emphasis  
Montana State University (MSU) | Bozeman, Montana

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Project Manager**, May 2018 – Present

Office of Sustainability: University of Montana

- Researched, designed and implemented a comprehensive and responsive electronics recycling and reuse program at the University of Montana.
- Develop and facilitate campus Zero Waste initiatives including materials management, recycling, composting, surplus sales, repurpose, and waste disposition programs.
- Manage UM's Sustainability Grant Program, UM's Compost Program, and other projects and programs which include intern and student employee management.
- Serve on UM Staff Senate and multiple committees and advisory groups engaged with policy development, professional development, human resources, and Strategic Enrollment Planning.

**Communications Coordinator**, August 2019 – June 2020

Missoula County

- Served as the Complete Count Committee Coordinator for the 2020 Census.
- Was subject matter expert and coordinated communication and outreach efforts with broad array of community stakeholders to ensure we were able to reach "hard to count" communities and underrepresented individuals in Missoula County.

**Project Manager and Coordinator of Sustainability Projects**, September 2013 – August 2017

Office for Sustainability: Western Michigan University (WMU)

- Managed multiple programs and projects while mentoring student employees (12-15 per semester), interns, researchers, and post-graduates for nationally recognized university sustainability program.
- Led development and management of Office's Sustainability Design Studio and Gibbs Farm, a two-acre living-learning permaculture research and demonstration site.
- Administered Student Sustainability Grant of \$75,000 annual funding to support student research, initiatives, and events to improve the culture, programs, and artifacts of sustainability at WMU.
- Advised and mentored student organizations, senior projects, and honors' theses.
- Served on President's University-wide Sustainability Committee and assisted the Executive Director with research, report writing, grant development, and program evaluation.

**Founder and Director**, August 2007 – July 2010

Forum for Living with Appropriate Technology: University of Montana

- Founded and directed an on-campus living-learning residential program (UM FLAT) to promote sustainable living, community resilience, experiential education, and urban agriculture at the University of Montana.

- Attracted national and local media attention and secured financial and material donations from the University and more than 40 local organizations and businesses valued over \$250,000.
- The UM FLAT was the capstone of my graduate tenure which led to the creation of an experiential programming resource that is celebrated as a dynamic resource for the University of Montana's Environmental Studies department and campus community.

**Director (interim),** August 2012 – January 2013

Montana Public Interest Research Group

- Served as the single professional employee of a student-funded organization that seeks to give students at the University of Montana opportunities to gain citizenship skills through hands-on organizing and critical campaign work on campus, in the community, and at the Montana State Legislature.
- Hired and mentored 8+ student employees and worked with the Board of Directors to manage budgets and overarching goals for the fall 2012 political campaign season.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

**Board of Directors,** Asset Management and Fundraising Committee, July 2010 – July 2013

Homeword

- Worked as an advocate for Homeword to promote efficient and sustainable housing through financing and educational programs that enable mid to low income individuals and families to develop the means and agency to own their own home at an affordable cost.

**Co-Founder and Co-Director,** February 2011 – July 2013

Transition Missoula

- Co-founded and co-directed Missoula's Transition Initiative to define and develop community resilience as a response to the environmental, social, and economic effects of climate change. As a founder, I led a variety of community efforts to establish roles and activities, facilitate meetings, develop workshops, provide community presentations, interface with local government, and facilitate planning efforts.

AFFILIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS, & AWARDS

- NS/WS Missoula Neighborhood Leadership Committee (2022-Present)
- Community Rising for Equity and Wellbeing (CREW) volunteer community organizer (2018-Present)
- Fundamentals of Organizing Leadership Institute (2021)
- University of Montana Adaptive Leadership Training (2021)
- University of Montana Strategic Enrollment Planning Steering Committee (2021 – Present)
- University of Montana Staff Senate: Professional Development Committee (2019 – Present)
- University of Montana Staff Ambassadors Program (2018-2019)
- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Advisory Council (2018-2020)
- Western Michigan University – Second Nature Climate Leadership Award (2014)
- Western Michigan University – Planet Forward Sustainability Innovation Award (2014)
- International Society of Sustainability Professionals – Sustainability Excellence Associate (January 2019)
- TRUE Advisor Zero Waste Certification (July 2018)
- Montana Master Naturalist -- Missoula Natural History Center (Spring 2019)
- Montana Master Gardener -- MSU County Extension (Spring 2018)
- Permaculture Design Certificate (Summer 2011)
- Sustainability Advocate of the Year, Missoula Sustainable Business Council (2010)

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- "E-Recycling: Opportunities for Innovation and Collaboration" – AASHE Conference (Fall 2019)
- "Sustainable Missoula: E-Recycling at UM" – Missoula Current (July 2019) <link>
- "The Gibbs Farm: A Permaculture Learning Lab," AASHE Conference (October 2015)
- "Sustainability at Western Michigan University," Western Student Association (October 2015)
- "Sustainability and Wellbeing," Holistic Wellbeing Symposium (November 2015)

- “Building Transition Communities,” Alternative Energy Resource Organization workshop (April 2012)
- “Building a Transition Community,” NW Permaculture Convergence (November 2012)
- “Reclaiming Health by Restoring the Planet,” St. Patrick’s Hospital Turning the Tide Conference (March 2012)
- “Building Effective Environmental Organizations,” Rocky Mountain Power-shift Conference (February 2012)
- “Building a Model for Sustainability,” Clinton Global Initiative University Conference, Miami FL (April 2010)
- “The Living Demonstration: The Forum for Living with Appropriate Technology,” Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit, Boulder CO (February 2009)
- “Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum,” UM Green Thread Workshop (May 2009)
- “Creating a Culture for Sustainability,” UM Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference (April 2009)
- “Making Biodiesel: Brew Your Own Biofuel,” published in *Mother Earth News* (June 2008) <[link](#)>
- “Oilseeds for the Future: Food, Fuel, and the Future” Presentation and publication for the National Center for Appropriate Technology (September 2008)