

Application Form -- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Today's Date: 6/24/21

Erin Montgomery
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(503) 329-3742

In which ward do you reside? 3

Applicant Background

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes

Are you a registered voter? Yes

How long immediately prior to this date have you been continuously a legal resident of the City of Missoula? 1.5 years

How long immediately prior to this date have you been continuously a legal resident of the State of Montana? 1.5 years

Current Occupation: Education Assistant

Current Employer: Origins Curriculum

Briefly describe your educational background:

I have a Master's Urban Planning (MUP) from The University of Washington, Seattle, with a particular focus on the intersections of environmental planning and the built environment. My thesis was a literature review examining the barriers and facilitators of walking for transport. During my master's work, I also had the honor of being a NEXOPOLIS Scholar in Quebec City, Quebec, where I co-conducted a bicycle infrastructure inventory and assessment of the downtown core (presenting the findings to the City Council). During the same time, I was also a co-recipient of the APA/AICP National Student Project Award in Applied Research, related to The City of Seattle Neighborhood Plan Update. Finally, I have several internships under my belt, ranging from a private planning firm to a county government, a State Legislature, and Americorps. I also have a CELTA certificate to teach English (ESOL) to adults in Europe through the University of Cambridge.

List of community service experience:

Evening Service Volunteer, Filadelfia House (Community Shelter in Stockholm, Sweden) Jan - Sept 2017

Americorps Volunteer in La Grande Oregon, working on projects related to Community Development and the Main Street Revitalization Grant Program, Fall 2010

Communications Committee Member, Washington State Chapter of the American Planning Association (Seattle, WA) Jan 2008 - 10

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

My interest in serving on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board is as a Missoula resident with (1) a background in bicycle and pedestrian planning, (2) ample experience utilizing Missoula's bicycle / pedestrian infrastructure, particularly as a parent transporting a child via stroller or bike trailer, and (3) experience living in other cities and countries with diverse built environments (some that support active transport, some that don't). As such, I have developed a keen and observant eye for walking / bicycling barriers and facilitators anywhere I go. Particularly in Missoula, I am invested as a long-term resident,

homeowner, and parent, and feel strongly committed to help improve the City's biking/walking environment for all users, in any way I can.

Do you have any special knowledge, interest, or experience that would qualify you for a position on this board, commission, or committee?

Professionally, my educational and employment background involving city planning and policy would play a key role in my capacity to contribute to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board--particularly my academic focus on active transport and my two years as a member of the American Planning Association Communications Committee (WA State Chapter). But beyond that, I maintain a strong and consistent personal passion for the mechanics of a built environment and how that design and layout influence walking and biking behavior. Over the past year-and-a-half, I've spent considerable time on foot and bike here in Missoula, just "getting around". Many of my walks are as a Mom with a stroller, or on a bicycle with a bike trailer, and I've become keenly aware of where it's safe to bike and walk, and where it is not. I can tell you what is working, and I can tell you what needs improvement. But I can do this from the perspective of someone with both a strong knowledge base AND plenty of user experience. I feel invested as a parent and resident, yet I also fully comprehend the limitations of budgets, staff, administrative codes, and other implementation and use barriers. I would offer a combination of practicality and knowledge to the Advisory Board that I hope would be an asset to the city's endeavors, current and future.

References

Courtney LeBlanc
(406) 396-4157

Ted Catton
(406) 926-2790