

Sunday, November 17, 2024



City of Olympia Boards and Commissions Committee Application

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Friday, December 13th at 5:00 PM PST

Advisory committees are a structured way for individual community members to share their opinions and perspectives, study issues, and develop recommendations in a focused small group. Their primary purpose is to provide judicious advice, from a community member's perspective, to the Olympia City Council.

Committee activities may include study of critical issues, hearing public testimony, independent research, and reviewing staff reports and recommendations - all of which is intended so that the committee is prepared to discuss, formulate, and forward well-developed, thoughtful recommendations to the City Council in a timely manner.

The City of Olympia values participation from all perspectives and life experiences and looks for equity and inclusion in advisory board appointments.

To reduce barriers to community member participation, the City offers stipends of \$25 per meeting attended to Advisory Committee members. Those members who certify as low income are eligible to receive stipends of \$50 per meeting attended. Advisory Committee members may waive the stipend upon request.

The Olympia City Council's Community Livability and Public Safety Committee recommends appointments to the full Council. Recommendations are made following review of applications and interviews of qualified candidates.

All of this careful consideration takes time, please be aware that you will not be notified until February of 2025 of any next steps in the process.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. Questions? Contact Dawn Carvalho, Executive Services Assistant, 360.753.8065, dcarvalh@ci.olympia.wa.us

If you saved or submitted an application and did not receive a confirmation, please check your spam folder. When filed with the City, your application and attachment documents are public records and may be subject to public release.

Name	Jason Taellious
Email	[REDACTED]
Primary Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Alternate Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Some appointments require that applicants reside within Olympia city limits. Even though your mailing address may be Olympia, you may reside in the County or another jurisdiction. Are you a resident of the City of Olympia?

Yes

Select your residential area (Olympia residency is not required; however, it is a primary consideration.)

Westside

Which Boards and Commissions would you like to apply for?

Arts Commission

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Planning Commission

If you applied for Multiple Boards and/or Commissions, please rank them in order of interest below:

- 1 - Planning Commission
- 2 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
- 3 - Arts Commission

Interests & Experiences

Please keep answers concise and informative. You are introducing yourself to the Olympia City Council and sharing with them why you are interested in being considered for appointment. You may attach a resume.

Attach a Resume



Resume_Taellious_20241117.pdf

Briefly describe why you wish to serve on this/these Advisory Committee(s).

Highly motivated to help our city grow and develop in ways that are both sustainable and beneficial to our community. This includes long term thinking, planning for resilience and welcoming diversity.

Describe your experience, qualifications, and/or skills which would benefit the advisory committee(s) you are applying to.

Industry trained planning professional with Artisans Group, a local sustainable architecture and planning firm. I have firsthand experience working with Permit Authorities on successful residential, mixed-use and commercial projects ranging from low-income housing to highly custom sustainable buildings.

Additionally, I'm also a former freelance artist and stay-at-home parent of two nearly adult teens raised in Olympia.

I'm invested in our community and have a proven track record for breaking down challenging topics and working together with groups to effectively communicate the ideas.

Share the ways you've been involved or have volunteered in the community.

- Youth Soccer Coach, 2017-2020,
- Aikidoka and Sensei at Aikido Olympia, 2011 - 2017,
- Volunteer Olympia Coop, 2008-2015,

- Volunteer Editor and Writer at Olyblog.net, 2006-2008,

List your educational and/or professional background and area of study.

Boston College, English and Philosophy,
South Puget Sound Community College, Architectural Drafting,
Artisans Group Architecture and Planning, Project Manager & Director of Planning,
The Princeton Review, LSAT prep teacher and staff trainer.

Appointment to an advisory committee will require your attendance at evening meetings, and undertake other work (reading, meeting preparation etc.). How many hours per month are you willing to commit as a volunteer?

I'm able to commit up to 20 hours per month.

Question Applies to the Arts Commission: What art form resonates most with you and why?

I realize this doesn't directly answer your question, but: collaborative multi-disciplinary.

I love the alchemy of bringing together different perspectives and skill sets with a shared goal of creative expression. As a former practicing poet and photographer, working with other artists in different disciplines was vivifying.

Question Applies to the Arts Commission: Describe your own engagement with the Olympia arts community?

From 2006-2008, developed OlyBlog.net as a significant resource for local arts publicity and awareness. Developed daily engagement from 30 unique visitors per day to more than 4,500 unique visitors per day.

2009, Olympia "Here Today" arts grant recipient.

2009, Timberland Regional Library Edgar Allen Poe-try Slam Winner

2010-2012, Taught performance poetry workshops to students at NOVA and Olympia Regional Learning Academy.

Question Applies to the Planning Commission: In your own words, describe the role of a Olympia Planning Commissioner?

Planning Commission members review current and proposed Planning information (e.g. Comprehensive Plan, Development Code, Shoreline Master Program, etc.) provided by City staff and hired consultants and analyze that information in order to develop Commission recommendations to the City Council.

Fundamentally, to my mind this means Planning Commissioners should commit to thoroughly studying and analyzing the information provided with an eye toward how it can benefit or harm Olympia, then work with each other to communicate perspectives and opinions about that analysis in order to develop shared findings to the City Council.

Planning Commission group meetings are public and it's my understanding that Commission communications are subject to public disclosure requests. As such, it is critical to be prepared, professional and respectful.

Question Applies to the Planning Commission: What interests you the most about community planning?

I love Olympia and would like to see us continue to more fully embrace our status as both the State Capital and an amazing waterfront community within close proximity to extensive outdoor activities.

Community planning is the recognition that hope and wishful thinking do not make for good strategy and the skills I've developed in the building industry over the last five years would be a valuable addition to our community's efforts to grow in a sustainable, resilient and diverse fashion.

Question Applies to the Planning Commission: What skills would you bring to the work of the Planning Commission and what do you hope to learn?

My experience working with Permitting Authorities and helping my clients navigate challenging site development considerations in order to develop within Code constraints is of value to the Planning Commission. The skills required for this include Code analysis, problem solving, communication, cooperation and constructively managing disagreements.

I am thoroughly excited to learn more about Olympia Codes and Plans from a future forward perspective instead of on a project-by-project and site-by-site basis.

Question Applies to the Planning Commission: Have you ever taken a Short Course in Local Planning, read an Olympia Planning Commission meeting packet or attended a meeting?

I have attended meetings and read meeting packets. I have never taken a short course in local planning.

Question Applies to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: Describe your interest in and use of parks in Olympia.

I think Olympia's parks are the City's handshake with both our community and our visitors. My family uses our parks at least once a week, and often far more often than that for recreational purposes and I've regularly used them as settings for my photography.

I'm very interested in further developing our waterfront park(s) in order to increase equitable water access and making Olympia even more popular as a tourist destination.

Question Applies to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: Please describe your interest in recreation (sports leagues, summer camps, classes or trips) in Olympia.

I play adult recreational soccer, and both of my kids grew up participating in numerous City of Olympia camps. I believe increased community involvement typically starts with things that are enjoyable, and the City's Parks and Recreation efforts are key to that effort.

Question Applies to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: What particular perspectives or skills would you bring to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee?

As a stay-at-home parent in Olympia for almost ten years, I made extensive use of the City's parks and recreational offerings for my family. Those experiences provide me a significant insight into what works well, what can work better, and what isn't working for Olympia's families.

As a planning professional for a local architecture firm, we consider the utility, sustainability and aesthetics of the built environment for our clients. I would bring these skills to any work with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

If you are not appointed to a Board or Commission at this time:

Do you wish to be considered for appointment to another Board or Commission?

No

Do you wish to be considered for future appointment to your preferred Board or Commission?

Yes

Thank you for your interest in serving on a City of Olympia Advisory Committee!

Please hit the "submit" button below when you have completed your application .

Jason Taellious

EDUCATION

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

1995 - 1999

*Philosophy
English*

South Puget Sound Community College, Olympia, WA

2016 - 2017

Drafting, Architecture

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artisans Group Architecture & Planning, Tumwater, WA

2018 - Present

Project Manager, Director of Planning

- Developed Planning department and standards.
- Residential and Commercial site specific Zoning Code analysis on projects throughout Pacific NW.
- Work with Permitting Authorities on challenging site developments involving Variances, Critical Areas, Reasonable Use Exceptions and non-standard interpretations of Code.
- Manage permit submissions for projects ranging from low-income housing, through sustainable non-traditional custom homes, multi-family, mixed-use and commercial.

Freelance Artist

1999 - 2016

Performance poetry, Photography

- Published in “[The Universal Principles of Design](#),” [Concrete International](#), [Curbed – Seattle](#), [KUOW.org](#), [CleanTechnica](#), [Destination Guides – Seattle](#), [The Architectural Site](#), [360Photography](#), [Intermedia Arts](#), [King County Library System](#), [SeattleMagazine.com](#), [The ECO Report](#), [Lifehacker.com](#), [California Office of Historic Preservation](#) and more.
- Awarded 2009 City of Olympia “Here Today” arts grant.
- Competed in and won poetry slams in Boston, San Diego and Seattle.
- Work shown at Salk Institute and Museum of Modern Art.

Princeton Review, Seattle, WA & Minneapolis, MN

2001 - 2006

Master Teacher, Trainer and Tutor

- Taught test taking skills for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
- Analyzed and interpreted data to assist with improved outcomes.
- Trained new teachers.

APPLICABLE SKILLS

Zoning Code Familiarity: Industry trained Planner with practical hands-on approach to problem solving. Particularly interested in sustainable site development with long term community benefits.

Group Communication: Team player with demonstrated history of fostering coordination between disparate parties.

Analysis: Odd collection of creative arts, data analysis and practical Planning skill development cumulatively leads to an ability to challenge assumptions and develop new insights.