

Profile

Zainab

First Name

Nejati

Last Name

Middle Initial

 [REDACTED]
 Email Address

 [REDACTED]
 Home Address

Suite or Apt

Olympia

City

WA

State

98501

Postal Code

 [REDACTED]
 Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Question applies to multiple boards

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, beginning April 1, 2021, the City will offer 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.

Applications are accepted for the calendar year only. The Olympia City Council's General Government Committee recommends appointments to the full Council. Recommendations are made following review of applications and interviews of qualified candidates.

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 Susan Grisham, Executive Assistant, 360.753.8244, sgrisham@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.

Technical Services
 Manager/Water Resources
 Engineer

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

If you applied for multiple boards or commissions, please rank them in order of interest below.

Select Your Neighborhood (you must live within Olympia City limits to serve on a board or commission) *

Other

If you choose "other" please write in your neighborhood here:

The Cedars

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

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. Olympia residency is not required; however, it is a primary consideration. You may attach a resume.

Question applies to multiple boards

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on this advisory committee.

I wish to serve on the Planning Commission as I am looking for a way to get involved in my community in a structured way where my professional experience can be an asset. Additionally, being a Planning Commissioner is an opportunity for me to learn about a topic outside of my area of expertise.

Question applies to multiple boards

2. Describe your experience, qualifications, and/or skills which would benefit this advisory committee.

Perhaps most relevant to this position is my past two and a half years working for Thurston County Public Works (TCPW) where I first started as a Utility Planner and now serve as Water Resources Technical Services Manager. During my time at TCPW, I have developed Capital Improvement Plans for water, sewer, and stormwater; lead code updates which required policy analysis and collaboration with multiple stakeholders; and am responsible for managing the County's Utility Advisory Committees.

Question applies to multiple boards

3. Describe your involvement in the Olympia community.

As a transplant to Olympia, I've struggled to find volunteer opportunities which are compatible with my current position as most want volunteers with daytime availability. Since moving to Olympia I have been involved with the occasional native planting and canvassing events. Prior to moving to Olympia, I was a resident of Baltimore City and very active in my community. I served as one of the vice-presidents of the Patterson Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) which represents over 1,500 homes and has an active membership of over 300 residents, co-chaired the Capital Improvements Committee of the Patterson Park Master Planning effort, participated/chaired numerous professional society committees, and fostered animals for a local rescue.

Question applies to multiple boards

4. List your educational and professional background and area of study.

B.S. Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University M.S. Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University

Question applies to multiple boards

5. Appointment to this committee will require your attendance at evening meetings. How many hours per month are you willing to commit as a volunteer?

25-30

Question applies to multiple boards

6. If you are not appointed to this committee at this time:

Question applies to multiple boards

6a. Do you wish to be considered for appointment to another advisory committee?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

6b. Do you wish to be considered for future appointment to this committee?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

6c. Would you be willing to volunteer for other City activities?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

If you answered yes to 6a, please identify what other Advisory Committees you would be interested in being considered for in order of interest.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Question applies to multiple boards

7. 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 No

Question applies to multiple boards

8. Appointees to advisory committees are assigned and required to use a City email address for all advisory committee business.

Do you agree to comply with this expectation?

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

9. How did you learn about this advisory committee recruitment?

E-mail

[OPC Resume Nejati 2021.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Question applies to Planning Commission

10. In your own words, what is the role of an Olympia Planning Commissioner?

The role of the Olympia Planning Commissioner is to advise the Olympia City Council on planning decisions. The recommendations on courses of action should be the best possible compromise between community desires, economic growth, and preservation of the natural environment. The Planning Commissioner is responsible for reviewing materials such as comprehensive plan amendments, and holding public hearings on proposals and using the information gathered to inform their recommendations.

Question applies to Planning Commission

11. What interests you most about community planning?

What interests me most about community planning is how planning decisions are used to shape communities. For example, in Baltimore there are many older larger rowhomes and by allowing these formerly single family homes to be broken into smaller apartments you add density to neighborhoods. This density in turns creates more foot traffic which helps create demand for local business such as restaurants and grocery stores. Another example would be how parking minimums increase the cost of development and therefore the price of housing. Ultimately whether these end results, be they increased density or housing costs, are good or bad for your city depend on the values of the community and what built environment they want to live in.

Question applies to Planning Commission

12. What skills would you bring to the work of the Planning Commission and what do you hope to learn?

My background is in utilities (stormwater, water, and sewer) policy, planning, and capital projects and I can therefore bring technical expertise related to those utilities and how they might affect planning. For example, a land zoning proposal could be incompatible with sewer capacity, or the introduction of a centralized stormwater facility might encourage development which otherwise would be infeasible or cost prohibitive. Additionally, a non-insignificant portion of my job is proposing different policy decisions and determining how those will affect different customers. This analysis experience is directly applicable to being a planning commissioner even though the topics themselves (e.g. ADUs) may be different. I hope to generally learn more about Olympia Municipal Code, the Growth Management Act, and the perspectives of different interest groups in the planning process (e.g. home builders, environmental community).

Question applies to Planning Commission

13. Have you ever taken a Short Course in Local Planning, read an OPC packet or attended a meeting?

I attend the Short Course on Local Planning offered by the Department of Commerce offered at the 2019 Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) Conference.

Question applies to Planning Commission

14. What is your knowledge of the City's Comprehensive Plan and how it relates to planning?

The City's Comprehensive Plan lays out the City's goals, policies, and vision for a period of 20 years, and lays out plans (e.g. Capital Facilities Plans) for how that vision will be achieved. The Comprehensive Plan is a long range plan and is therefore a memorialization of past planning efforts, and is used to inform future planning decisions (e.g. re-zoning).

Zainab D. Nejati, P.E.

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EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

WA Professional Engineer # 56572

Endorsements: Civil, Environmental

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

M.S. Environmental Engineering

B.S. Environmental Engineering

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Thurston County Public Works, Olympia, WA

September 2018- Present

Technical Services Manager | October 2020—Present

Senior Civil Engineer | May 2020—October 2020

Utility Planner | September 2018—May 2020

- Supervised team of Utility Planners.
- Planning lead for the County's water and sewer utilities.
- Lead Thurston County stormwater capital facilities program update.
- Managed Boston Harbor and Tamoshan Utility Advisory Committees.
- Lead Thurston County Code (TCC) updates including TCC 15.20, 15.06, and 15.09-15.12.
- Created briefing materials and presented to the County Board of County Commissioners on policy and code changes.
- Reviewed development applications for compliance with the Thurston County DDECM and Water and Sewer Development Standards.
- Managed multiple stormwater projects including Woodard Creek Site #1 Retrofit, Boston Harbor Drainage Study, and Boston Harbor Outfall Replacement and Conveyance System Design.
- Identified and performed preliminary modeling for potential stormwater retrofit projects.

Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy, Detroit, MI

Jan 2018- July 2018

- Managed Centralized Stormwater Management (CSM) Master Plan for Eastern Market District and Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Retrofit at Sacred Heart Church (SHC).
- Obtained permission from Archdiocese of Detroit (AOD) and SHC financial council to conduct due diligence on church property.
- Assessed potential GSI retrofit sites and prepared preliminary project cost estimates.
- Developed RFP, and evaluated consultant proposals for GSI Retrofit at SHC.
- Communicated with stakeholders regarding CSM and SHC GSI projects and participated in public meetings.

Brown and Caldwell, Beltsville, MD

Oct 2011-Jan 2018

Engineer III | January 2014—January 2018

Engineer II | October 2011—December 2013

Comprehensive MS4/TMDL Program Management, Montgomery County Department of the Environment, Rockville, Maryland

- Managed stormwater pond, neighborhood green streets, and school low impact development (LID) retrofit projects with total contract value of \$5.3M.
- Oversaw activities of the County's Water Resource Engineering (WRE) consultants.

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- Reviewed submittals for accuracy, and compliance with state and local design standards.
- Coordinated with local, state, and federal permitting agencies.
- Communicated with stakeholders regarding retrofits and led public meetings.
- Created ArcGIS templates for task orders, and data management.
- Developed a desktop procedure to evaluate pre-1986 pond water quality volume (WQv).
- Negotiated easements and right of entry agreements.

Cabin John Creek Watershed Assessment, Montgomery County Department of the Environment, Rockville, Maryland

- Lead Green Streets Assessment Team evaluating three neighborhoods for green infrastructure opportunities.
- Supervised stream assessment crews.
- Responsible for post processing of spatial data collected by field crews of stream assessments, green streets, Rainscapes, and new BMP opportunities.
- Supervised junior staff members in data quality control and creation of new ArcGIS datasets.

Comprehensive Sewershed Study, Northeast Branch Sewer Basin, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Laurel, Maryland

- Project engineer for comprehensive sewer system evaluation study which included smoke testing, dye testing, flow isolation, CCTV and manhole inspections.
- Managed data for 291 miles of separate sanitary sewers ranging in size from 6" to 120".
- Reviewed smoke testing, flow isolation, and dye testing results for quality control and data analysis.

BMP Database Development and Filing System, Department of Public Works, Salisbury, MD

- Created ArcGIS database structure to comply with City needs and NPDES reporting requirements.
- Supervised team reviewing as-builts and populating ArcGIS database.
- Developed an electronic filing system for inspection records, as-builts, and other documentation.

Western Basin Environmentally Sensitive Area Permit Ready Submittal, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Laurel, Maryland

- Served on a project team designing 15 miles of sewer and 630 Manhole rehabilitation designs in 200 Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA).
- Prepared Army Corps of Engineers and MD Department of the Environment Joint Permit Applications.
- Designed Fulcrum tablet application used to collect field data.
- Constructed models in ArcGIS model builder to calculate bid quantities for line items
- Completed designs (30% 60%, 90%) for 24 path rehab work packages which included using rehab recommendations to evaluate access type needed, inclusion of close proximity pipe assets for repair, bypassing pumping layout and locations of construction entrances.

Engineer I, EA Engineering/Louis Berger, Baltimore, MD

Jan 2010 - Sept 2011

Stormwater Management Utility Feasibility and Development, Baltimore City Department of Public Works, Baltimore, Maryland

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- Assisted in development of stormwater utility for Baltimore City.
- Developed recommendations for credit and incentive program.
- Responsible for QA/QC of impervious area data and calculation of equivalent residential unit.

Unified Emergency Response Plan, Bureau of Water and Wastewater, Baltimore, Maryland

- Drafted Unified Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for Bureau of Water and Wastewater.
- Conducted Gap Analysis of existing ERPs as provided by the City.
- Conducted informational interviews with Bureau Heads and key staff regarding their response to emergencies, operational disruptions, and near misses.

PRESENTATIONS

Lessons Learned in Implementing LID Retrofits at Public Schools in Montgomery County, MD, Poster Presentation, 2016 EWRI International Low Impact Development Conference, Portland, ME

Say, How Much for that Stormwater: A Look at Chesapeake Bay Region's Credit and Incentive Programs for Stormwater Utilities, Oral Presentation, 2014 Tri-Association Conference, Ocean City, MD

Lorax Approved Solutions: The Evolving World of Mobile & Cloud Data Collection, Oral Presentation, 2014 Tri-Association Conference, Ocean City, MD

Lawyers, TMDLs, and Money: Understanding Maryland's Accounting for Growth Policy, Oral Presentation, 2014 Tri-Association Conference, Ocean City, MD

Accounting for Growth: The Final Chapter in Maryland's TMD Odyssey, Oral Presentation, 2013 Tri-Association Conference, Ocean City, MD