



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	Ben Gossett
Email	[REDACTED]
Primary 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.)

Southeast

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

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
2. Utility Advisory Committee

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 of Ben Gossett (12.2... .pdf)

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

I moved to Olympia recently, and I am interested in engaging with other civic minded people in the community toward a public good. My professional background is in program administration of public parks and utilities, and I believe my skills are best matched with one of these two committees.

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

My professional experience is in project management and program management related to public real estate. Currently I manage land for King County Parks, and previously I managed acquisition and right of way for Portland Water Bureau.

My qualifications are from my professional experience and familiarity with a variety of issues and priorities public agencies manage to provide service.

My skills include project management, program management, problem solving, public budgets, and collaboration.

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

This would be my first experience volunteering in this community.

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

In addition to my professional background described above, I hold Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Psychology degrees.

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?

15-20

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 .

Ben J. Gossett



WORK HISTORY & RESPONSIBILITIES

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Land Management Supervisor (Program/Project Manager IV)

February 2022 – Present

- Administer DNRP's Land Management Unit, which manages real estate related to 200 individual parks, regional trails, and open spaces, comprising more than 30,000 acres of land in all.
- Supervise five technical staff in permitting, property management, and customer service roles.
- Communicate program information to diverse internal and external stakeholders and the public.
- Develop strategies and recommendations to solve real estate problems and avoid risks.
- Center equity and other core County values in land management programming decisions.

City of Portland Water Bureau

Special Projects Property Manager (Analyst III)

December 2019 – February 2022

- Lead real estate staff and consultants performing analysis for regulatory compliance projects.
- Analyze and recommend property alternatives related to utility infrastructure improvements.
- Develop and implement property acquisition plans, including scopes, schedules, and budgets.
- Review engineering plans, surveys, appraisals, deeds, and easements to make program decisions.
- Present to Portland City Council to request authorization and funds for property acquisition.

City of Portland Water Bureau

Right of Way Supervisor (Coordinator III)

May 2014 – December 2019

- Oversee Bureau property acquisition and easement management programs.
- Supervise technical staff managing property management and acquisition projects.
- Interpret and apply codes, statutes, and regulations to complex real estate projects.
- Advise leaders regarding property acquisition, management, and surplus property disposition.
- Support City Attorney's Office with eminent domain acquisition processes.

City of Portland Water Bureau

Right of Way Agent (Right of Way Agent III)

June 2006 - May 2014

- Manage property acquisition projects, including developing scopes, schedules, and budgets.
- Negotiate with property owners to acquire property and easements for utility projects.
- Evaluate petitions to use City property for special uses such as access and construction.
- Monitor easements and permits for compliance with contraction terms and obligations.
- Identify and mitigate (or permit) encroachments on municipal property and easements.

Ben J. Gossett



CORE COMPETENCIES

- Program Management
- Supervision and Coaching
- Project Management
- Property Acquisition
- Property Management
- Real Estate Law
- Real Estate Analysis
- Process Improvement
- Public Engagement
- Problem Solving

EDUCATION

Portland State University – Master of Public Administration
Portland, Oregon

University of Seoul - Public Policy Case Study Program
Seoul, South Korea

Washington University in St. Louis – Bachelor of Science in Psychology
St. Louis, Missouri