

Profile

Rebecca _____ Brown _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

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Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Question applies to multiple boards

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

Three absences from meetings in a year may result in removal from an advisory board.

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.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources.

When filed with the City, your application and attachment documents are public records and may be subject to public release.

Environmental Planner _____
Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: Appointed

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) *

South Westside Olympia

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

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 have been a member of the BPAC since May 2015, when I was appointed to fill a vacancy with one year left in the term. I feel like I just started understanding the flow of the committee, and I am ready for a full term. I am excited for the opportunity to continue my work advocating for and supporting projects that address bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns and promote alternative transportation options. I have been a bicycle commuter for 10 years, and I am passionate about keeping and improving bicycling as a viable transportation option. In addition, I am frequently a pedestrian and a runner who wants to see Olympia continue to improve their options for and the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians alike. I am very excited to continue work on the Transportation Master Plan.

Question applies to multiple boards

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

In addition to my experience starting and running a bicycle/pedestrian advocacy group, I have experience as a land use planner. I worked for over two years as a planner for Yakima County, where I gained skill and experience in the technical side of planning, such as reading and interpreting municipal codes and comprehensive plans. I am a team player, an excellent writer, and experienced with oral and written communication, and social media. As a leader of Yakima Bikes and Walks, I collaborated with a wide range of people and organized grassroots events. I also have experience working with and speaking to the media. Finally, I have extensive experience conducting independent research, primarily through my planning work, and during my undergrad and graduate studies. As a planner for Yakima County, I wrote many recommendations and staff reports for the Planning Commission and Hearing Examiner. One of my responsibilities at Yakima Bikes and Walks was to manage the email and Facebook site. I facilitated our monthly meetings, wrote the agendas, and compiled the post-meeting summaries (with help and input from other members and organizers). I spoke at City Council meetings, and gathered others to speak at the City Council meetings as well. I was one of Yakima Bikes and Walks representatives on Yakima's Complete Streets Working Group. It is a collaboration between members of the public, Yakima Transit, the City of Yakima, the Council of Governments, the Health District, and others to educate and inspire the public and city leaders on the concept of Complete Streets. We hosted a 'Feet in the Street' event in May, which closed off a block of downtown Yakima to cars, and provided a variety of fun, healthy activities, such as historic walking tours, Zumba, yoga, and a bike ride. Finally, as a current member of the BPAC, I have a fuller understanding of my role as a member of an advisory committee. I was the subcommittee chair that drafted the 2019 letter to the City Council about the CFP.

Question applies to multiple boards

3. Describe your involvement in the Olympia community.

I have been a member of the Olympia BPAC since May 2015. In addition, I am a founding member of the South Sound Section of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association. I volunteer several times a year with the Stream Team at Mission Park to plant trees and other conservation work. I also volunteered at the Barb's Family and Friends Christmas Dinner. I have played drums for Samba Olywa's Procession of the Species performance, and played soccer in an adult recreation league.

Question applies to multiple boards

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

I have a Masters' degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a BS in Environmental Studies. In addition, I am a member of the AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) and the American Planning Association (APA). I worked as a National Park Service Interpretive Ranger in Minnesota, and then worked for over two years as an Environmental and Natural Resources Planner for Yakima County. I am currently an Environmental Planner for the Department of Ecology. Before my planning career, I worked as an environmental educator, providing instruction and leadership for youth and adults on conservation projects on public lands across the county.

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?

10

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.

Parks, Planning.

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. Citizens appointed 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?

From Michelle Swanson

[Resume_March_2018.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

Rebecca Liana Brown, AICP

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Education

Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Degree: Master of Urban and Regional Planning

St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY

Degree: B.S. Environmental Studies and Psychology, Minor: African Studies

Publications: Brown, R., & Harris, G. (2005). Co-management of Wildlife Corridors: The case for citizen participation in the Algonquin to Adirondack Proposal. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 74, 97-106.

Conservation and Planning Experience

Environmental Planner 3—*Washington State Department of Ecology*, October 2015-Present, Lacey, WA.

- Manage grants and loans for water quality improvement projects, including projects that fund the repair and replacement of onsite sewage systems, promote direct seed/no-till agriculture, manage and treat stormwater, and provide wastewater treatment.
- Negotiate, develop, and manage contracts and agreements with public bodies and private firms.
- Launch and coordinate the nationally-recognized Regional Loan Program, an innovative public-private partnership that provides financing throughout the Puget Sound and beyond for individuals to replace and repair failing septic systems. Expand the program from 10 counties to 15 counties since its inception.
- Collaborate with partners from the Department of Health, local health departments, and local county governments to improve the Regional Loan Program, address issues, and provide support.
- Promote the Regional Loan Program by presenting in person and remotely to statewide and national audiences, developing written materials, and working one-on-one with interested parties.
- Convene an annual meeting of grant and loan recipients and Regional Loan Program partners.
- Chair the Ecology Grants Group, an intra-agency forum that meets monthly to support grant and loan programs agency-wide.
- Conduct Cultural Resource Reviews on proposed on-site sewage system projects.
- Prepare documents for publication by editing and revising to make the documents easier to read following Plain Talk guidelines.

Project Planner—*Environmental and Natural Resources Section—Yakima County Public Services Planning Division*, June 2013-October 2015, Yakima, WA.

- Reviewed building and land use applications and wrote permits based on zoning and subdivision codes, critical area and Shoreline Master Program ordinances, GIS information, and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) guidelines.
- Wrote the Hazard Mitigation and Parks and Open Space chapters for the Yakima County Comprehensive Plan.
- Conducted site visits with applicants and agencies to determine the presence of critical areas and Shoreline jurisdiction for permit applications.
- Provided excellent customer service, and worked with members of the public, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.
- Conducted National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental reviews for Housing and Urban Development grant-funded projects.

Interpretive Ranger—*National Park Service (Mississippi National River and Recreation Area)*, June 2011-November 2012, St. Paul, MN.

- Wrote a visitor management plan for a 92-acre section of the park and training manuals for seasonal employees; conducted research for the Park's Alternate Transportation Plan.
- Engaged over 2000 volunteers of all ages in over 60 habitat restoration events, including invasive species removal and native prairie planting; increased the number of volunteers by 28% between 2011 and 2012.
- Planned and led a National Public Lands Day public service event for 225 volunteers; worked closely with park partners to successfully implement the program.
- Developed and presented interpretive programs and classroom lesson plans that effectively communicated the story of the park, native landscapes, and invasive species.

Graduate Assistant—*University of Minnesota*, January 2012-May 2012, St. Paul, MN.

- Conducted a literature review, analyzed survey data, and wrote a manuscript pertaining to bicycling perceived safety with intent to publish in a professional journal.

Student Consultant—*University of Minnesota*, August 2010-May 2012, Minneapolis, MN.

- Conducted a policy and code audit and developed a strategy to implement a sustainability plan for the City of Burnsville.
- Responded to an RFP for a public participation process for a Low-Impact-Development program in Chanhassen, MN.
- Wrote a stormwater management plan for the Southeast Como neighborhood of Minneapolis.

GIS Intern—*The Nature Conservancy*, November 2010 – August 2011, Minneapolis, MN

- Developed database to map plant species locations using GIS.
- Identified potential conservation projects using GIS for the Land Protection Department.

Volunteer Experience

City of Olympia Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Committee Member), May 2015-Present.

Yakima Bikes and Walks (Co-founder and Organizer), March 2014-October 2015.

National Park Service (Researcher and Planner), November 2012-May 2013.

Awards and Honors

2017 Clean Water State Revolving Fund's Performance and Innovation in the SRF Creating Environmental Success (PISCES) Award, EPA.

2017 Creative Solutions Award, IACC (Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council).

2016 Open Category Award, Ecology Water Quality Program.

2014 September Employee of the Month, Yakima County Public Services Department.

2012 American Institute of Certified Planners Outstanding Student Planner.

Skills

Computer skills: ArcGIS, MS Office, Internet, STATA, EAGL, WebEx.

Communication: Strong written and verbal communication; experience includes planning memos, press releases, technical reports, bill analyses, and research papers, as well as presentations, and workshop facilitation.

Work style: Graduate and professional experience working with groups and on individual projects; comfortable and successful in both scenarios.

Research: Survey creation and interviews; coursework in conducting empirical research and experimental design; Internet database, library research, and literature reviews; policy, law, and ordinance research.