




**JEFFERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**CONSENT AGENDA REQUEST**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
Philip Morley, County Administrator

**FROM:** Carl Smith, DCD Director   
Stacie Hoskins, Planning Manager   
Michelle McConnell, Associate Planner/Long Range Lead 

**DATE:** April 7, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation for Planning Commission District 2 and 3 Appointments

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:** The nine-member Jefferson County Planning Commission currently has three vacancies for District 2 and 3 representatives for terms that expired over the past year:

- District 2 – The remainder of a four-year term to expire March 17, 2017;
- District 2 - A full four-year term to expire March 17, 2018; and
- District 3 – A full four-year term to expire March 17, 2018.

Department of Community Development provides this overview with a recommendation for appointments.

**ANALYSIS/STRATEGIC GOALS/PROS and CONS:** Planning is intended to guide and regulate the physical development and servicing of lands to provide predictability and consistency for citizens and agencies, and to assure high standards of the natural environment for living, operation of commerce, industry, agriculture and recreation while conserving the highest degree of public health, safety, morals and welfare in view of the need for a strong local economy. To this end the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) established a “Planning Agency” comprised of a department and a commission. Per the originating action (Resolution #54-97), the commission should assist the department in carrying out its duties, by and through engaging the public in the preparation and review of comprehensive plans and development regulations. The department shall forward any commission recommendation on to the BoCC and a final departmental recommendation on matters before the Board.

One vacant position has been open since the term expired on March 17, 2013. Former District 2 representative Mr. Peter Downey indicated that he would ‘retire’ from service after two consecutive four-year terms. The second vacant position recently expired March 17, 2014 and former District 2 representative Henry Werch indicated he would not seek reappointment after eight years of volunteer service to the County. The third vacant position also recently expired March 17, 2014 and District 3 representative Tom Giske is seeking reappointment.

Only one application (H. Putterman) was received (May 2013) for District 2 in response to initial advertising in 2013. DCD interviewed and recommended him for appointment but the candidate withdrew his application in August 2013. Two additional applications were received in response to continued advertising and DCD has interviewed both candidates.

Mr. Matt Sircely submitted an application in September 2013 and has extensive experience with a wide array of environmental issues, local agriculture, political processes, and journalism. As an accomplished musician and professor he has traveled far and wide observing the varied land use and development patterns across the region and the United States. He brings a strong interest in the public process and opportunities to improve the quality of life through a balanced approach to planning.

Ms. Lorna Smith submitted an application in March 2014 and brings nearly 25 years of experience in professional land use and environmental planning. She is well-versed in GMA, SEPA, Comp Plans and development regulations and has worked with many citizen committees and stakeholder group processes over the years.

Mr. Tom Giske has been a District 3 representative since 2008, reappointed in 2010. Mr. Giske has been an engaged member of the planning commission who participates in group discussions. He brings a unique perspective to deliberations and has served the body well.

Staff believes Mr. Sircely, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Giske will both provide thoughtful and highly valued input to the Planning Commission, serve the constituents of their respective districts, and therefore recommends all three candidates for appointment.

Because the next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2014, staff urges timely action by the Board to allow these appointees' full participation.

**FISCAL IMPACT/COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS:** There is no fiscal impact to the county's General Fund for re-appointing a member to serve on the Planning Commission (PC). The 2014 DCD and PC Budgets are based on nine (9) PC members and these appointees will serve as part of the group.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Based on the findings of the DCD interview team, staff recommends the BoCC:

1. *Appoint **Matt Sircely** as a District 2 representative on the Planning Commission to serve the remainder of a four-year term ending March 17, 2017;*
2. *Appoint **Lorna Smith** as a District 2 representative on the Planning Commission to serve a full four-year term ending March 17, 2018; and*
3. *Re-appoint **Tom Giske** to continue as a District 3 representative on the Planning Commission to serve a full four-year term ending March 17, 2018.*

**REVIEWED BY:**

  
Philip Morley, County Administrator

4/3/14  
Date