



FAIRFAX TOWN COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE September 4, 2024

PREPARED FOR Mayor and Town Council

PREPARED BY Christine Foster, Deputy Town Clerk

SUBJECT Interview and Consider Appointment of Applicant to Serve on the Fairfax Parks & Recreation Commission and Climate Action Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Interview applicant Claude Ibrahimoff and consider their appointment to the Fairfax Parks & Recreation Commission to fill unexpired term through April 30, 2027.
2. Interview applicant Adrianna Smyth and consider their appointment to the Fairfax Climate Action Committee to fill an expired term ending July 31, 2028.

DISCUSSION

Parks & Recreation Commission

There are currently two vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC). The applicant being considered tonight is Claude Ibrahimoff.

PARC advises on public parks and recommends and organizes events and activities for Fairfax residents. Some of the events the Commission sponsors include:

- Fairfax Festival & Parade
- Concerts in the Park
- Town Wide Picnic on the Ballfield
- Events by the Artist-in-Residence Collaborative

Climate Action Committee

There are currently two vacancies on the Climate Action Committee ("CAC"). The applicant being considered tonight is Adrianna Smyth.

The CAC was established to help implement the Climate Action Plan, [adopted by the Town Council on February 5, 2014](#). Its mission is to mitigate the production of greenhouse gas and compile existing and potential strategies to address climate change.

CAC develops an annual Action Plan as well as any recommended amendments to the Climate Action Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENT

Applications (redacted)

Q1

Contact information

- Name Adrianna Smyth
- Address [REDACTED]
- City/Town Fairfax
- ZIP/Postal Code 94930
- Email Address [REDACTED]
- Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2

Which committee or commission are you applying for?

- Climate Action Committee

Q3

Which position on the Emergency Preparedness Committee are you applying for?

Respondent skipped this question

Q4

What is the date of the meeting you attended prior to completing your application?

- Date / Time 07/16/2024

Q5

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I am eager to be of service to this beautiful town I call home in a way that I feel really leverages my background, knowledge, skills, and passion.

Q6

How long have you lived in Fairfax?

14 years

Q7

What relevant work or life experience do you have for the board or commission you're applying for?

I have a PhD in Ecology from UC Berkeley and have been passionate about sustainability throughout my entire adult life. I am currently doing a second PhD at Prescott College in Sustainability Education, which focuses not only on traditional topics in sustainability but also on social and environmental justice as bedrocks of true sustainability. Currently I am a high school science teacher at San Domenico School, and for years have taught and refined a course in Climate Change for high school junior and seniors. I have spearheaded climate change and sustainability initiatives and committees at several Bay area private high schools, and have had two students win Brower Youth Awards. I am currently the upper school Sustainability Lead at San Domenico. I love working with others to engage in sustainability solutions!

Q8

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax?

I imagine Fairfax being a model for what is possible in terms of climate action and sustainability. As a relatively small town with loving and engaged citizens, many of whom are passionate about protecting natural systems, enhancing social and economic equality, and maintaining our strong sense of community, we are poised to show what is possible. In my vision, we drastically reduce vehicle traffic, while enhancing open community space, free of asphalt, throughout the central part of town. There is no end of cool ideas of how this space could be utilized, but native plants and signage about their importance to biodiversity should be everywhere, and we should consider rooftop gardens to fight warming and provide food wherever feasible. Roads in and around town need to be safer and friendlier to bicycles, and the vast majority of people are using ebikes or other non-gas powered vehicles to get around. Electric shuttles to key destinations are free and people can hop on and off to get to the Good Earth, or to

Deer Park, or Victory Village, or into San Anselmo. We need to put our heads together to figure out a solution for the flotillas of delivery trucks making multiple visits to the same streets every day - putting fumes and CO2 into the air, clogging traffic, making a lot of noise, and generally reducing quality of life for everyone. At the same time, we need to confront the desire for convenience that drives so many people to order items from across the world - that exploit workers, create excessive carbon emissions in production and transportation, and lead to tremendous amounts of packaging waste. In my perfect world, we want less stuff, and can easily find what we really need at local businesses. We can make climate resiliency a foundation of our community, holding very visible and well-publicized workshops and other events each month. Ideally this could eventually lead to neighborhood climate resiliency projects where neighbors build community through things like neighborhood gardening projects, grey water irrigation systems, solar power and battery storage, etc. We are a well educated and well connected group of people who can help write grants for local sustainability projects, and bring in inspirational speakers each month to pull community together and spark new ideas for projects to initiate. To make all of this meaningful we need to ensure that all of our residents are taken care of, and that those who want to work in Fairfax can actually live here. For example, a very large number of my colleagues at San Domenico commute from communities in areas with cheaper housing - this adds to increased emissions and pollution, while being a physical and mental burden on people who have chosen a career of service. This problem is widespread throughout Marin, and Fairfax could provide an amazing model if it could provide affordable housing allowing people to live and work in the same community. This would obviously enhance the diversity we all say we want, and with that diversity would come more ideas regarding sustainability. I have many other thoughts, but will leave it at this for the moment!

Q9

Describe possible areas in which you may have a conflict of interest with the Town.

None!

Q10

How did you hear about this vacancy?

- Social media

Q1

Contact information

- Name Claude Ibrahimoff
- Address [REDACTED]
- City/Town Fairfax
- ZIP/Postal Code 94930
- Email Address [REDACTED]
- Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2

Which committee or commission are you applying for?

- Parks and Recreation Commission

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Q3

Which position on the Emergency Preparedness Committee are you applying for?

Respondent skipped this question

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Q4

What is the date of the meeting you attended prior to completing your application?

- Date / Time 08/12/2024

Q5

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I attended the last 2 Saturday concerts at Perry Park and learned that you were looking for an additional member. I have not attended any meeting but plan to come to the next one on Monday, August 12.

Q6

How long have you lived in Fairfax?

30 years

Q7

What relevant work or life experience do you have for the board or commission you're applying for?

I have worked in the education field - administrative duties mostly at SFSU in different departments, at MSRI / SLMATH Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, as an international advisor and for a couple of not for profits - Youth Leadership Institute, and Cultures of Resistance. And I am myself a painter.

Q8

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax?

I enjoy the community life and would like to encourage and support musical events and other artistic/craft art events for the general public. I would like to figure out how to get a more diverse audience interested in these events, including a younger generation.

Q9

Describe possible areas in which you may have a conflict of interest with the Town.

I do not see any conflict of interest at this time.

Q10

How did you hear about this vacancy?

- Friend
- Other (please specify):
- At the Concert Saturday, August 2, and through Lisa Hillstrom.