



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

SPECIAL MEETING STAFF REPORT

October 6, 2022

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Interview and consider appointment of applicant PJ Feffer to the Planning Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Interview applicant PJ Feffer and consider his appointment to the Fairfax Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term to December 31, 2022.

DISCUSSION

There is currently one vacancy on the Planning Commission due to a resignation in December of 2021. The unexpired term runs through the end of this year. Should the Council appoint the applicant, it would be possible to reappoint him in January 2023 without another interview, to a full 4-year term to run through 2026.

The Town initially received three applications for the vacancy, but due to various reasons, each of the applicants subsequently withdrew. The deadline to apply was extended to September 15, 2022, as of which date one application had been received, that of Mr. PJ Feffer.

Mr. Feffer was invited to tonight's meeting for an interview and asked to prepare a brief (3 to 5 minute) presentation on his interest in serving on the Planning Commission. The Council may appoint him tonight, or delay the appointment to a future meeting.

ATTACHMENT

Application (redacted)

New submission from Boards and Commissions Application

Date

06/30/2022

Please select the board/committee/commission to which you are applying:

- Planning Commission

Name

Philip Feffer

Address

[REDACTED]
Fairfax, California 94930

Phone

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Please explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee.

I care deeply about our community and want to serve to help build and maintain a happy and healthy town. After visiting and staying with my wife's mother in Deer Park (where my wife was born and raised) regularly for almost 15 years, I have lived in Fairfax for almost 4 years and am actively working to become more involved in our community. I have taken a keen interest in the work of our Town Council and first focused on sitting through a number of Town Council meetings and other Board, Commission and Committee meetings to learn and more develop my understanding of the accompanying functions and processes. I believe I am well suited to serve with the Planning Commission and would be able to make a positive impact on our town.

Please describe your relevant work/life experience or background for the board/commission you are applying for:

I was born and raised in lower Manhattan in New York City where I met my wife while we were in college. My wife was born and raised in Deer Park where her mom has lived for almost 40 years. I first came to Fairfax almost 15 years ago and I quickly fell in love with the town. We would regularly visit and stay with my mother in law and I got to see Fairfax evolve through the years, spending as much time as I could in the town (making sure to go to as many Iron Springs teachers appreciation nights as we were in for) seeing the businesses change over (like 123 Bolinas). After going to Georgetown Law School in living in Washington, D.C., we briefly moved back to New York planning on moving to Fairfax when we had a child. We moved to Fairfax in the fall of 2018 shortly after our daughter was born. In the fall of 2019 I applied for and joined the County of Marin Countywide Priority Setting Committee, which advises the Marin County Board of Supervisors on grant spending for projects and programs that benefit some of Marin's lowest-income residents, which I continue to be a Committee member of. In addition to my sophisticated legal training and experience, I also bring my experience living in a variety of different communities and my understanding of their benefits and drawbacks.

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax?

My vision is for the Town of Fairfax to flourish sustainably, embracing its natural surroundings and its unique history and character, as we move through the challenges--such as climate change--that we face on a local level, and as we are affected more broadly in our place in California and the country. I want Fairfax to continue to be a town that families love and can grow in through multiple generations (as mine is doing), without leaving community members behind. I want to see a safe, environmentally sustainable Fairfax that remains an age-friendly accessible town and that all our community members can lead dignified lives in.

Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest.

While my legal work does not focus on real estate, development or municipal matters, it is possible that a client of the law firm I work at could at some point have some involvement in a matter related to the work of the Planning Commission. My law firm has established and standard procedures to avoid any conflicts of interest. As required pursuant to my professional responsibility regulations, I would take all necessary measures to avoid any conflicts in the unlikely event one arises.

Please enter the date of the meeting you attended:

5/26/22; 5/19/22; 4/28/22; 3/24/22

Electronic Signature

- By printing your name below and checking this box you agree that represents your electronic signature on the application.

Please type your full name here.

Philip Joseph Feffer