

Wendy Welsh

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Wesley Barker; zzDept. Mail - Town Clerk
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Board Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Advisory Board Application

First Name	Mikey
Last Name	Cristiano
Date	11/10/2023
Address1	106 Old Pittsboro Road
Address2	APT A
City	Carrboro
State	NC
Zip	27510
Is this address located within the corporate limits of the Town of Carrboro?	Yes
Is this address located within the Town's ETJ, Planning Jurisdiction, or Northern Transition Area?	Unsure
Telephone (111)-111-1111	9802530663
Email Address	jamcristiano89@gmail.com
The demographic information provided below is of interest because your elected officials want the Town's advisory boards to reflect the diversity of the Town. Diversity of the applicant pool is a priority of the Board.	
What Year Were You Born?	1992
Race	White

Sex	Male
Ethnicity	White
Occupation	Community Garden Manager
Are you a registered Orange County Voter?	Yes
Length of Residence in Orange County	9
Length of Residence in the Town of Carrboro	5
I wish to be considered for appointment to the following committee/board(s) (Select no more than two (2)):	Environmental Advisory Board, Stormwater Advisory Commission
Advisory Board Preference	Stormwater Advisory Commission
Other (advisory board not listed):	<i>Field not completed.</i>
**Employer/Self Employed	Inter-Faith Food Shuttle
Number of Years Employed	3
** Provide examples of how you are involved in the promotion of travel and tourism in the Town of Carrboro.	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Community Activities/Organizational Memberships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of North Carolina Native Plant Society - Former member of North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill - Spring 2022 volunteer at North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill
Relevant Experience:	<p>I have significant experience in environmental management as an agriculture professional. I worked for 3+ years in organic farming that included operating my own business and have been in my current role managing a community garden for over 3 years. I have worked intimately with natural systems interpreting environmental conditions to make work plans for gardens and farm land and address challenges regarding management of water, soil, nutrients, and plants.</p>

I have experience with rain gardens, water catchment, and am currently working on a green stormwater management plan to better manage runoff entering the community garden from adjacent impervious surfaces that have caused severe erosion. Plans include installation of pervious pavers, and a rain garden with native plants.

I also have experience in project and program management in my current role. I manage a variety of programs including our agriculture education offerings, community events, volunteer engagement, and community partnerships.

Education and Trainings:

- Bachelor of Science in Public Health, UNC Chapel Hill - 2015
- Fundamentals of Garden Design, Rob Littlepage - Landscape Architect and Educator (Udemy online course) - Enrolled/On-going Summer 2023
- Foundations of Project Management (Course 1), Google Project Management - Completed December, 2022
- Equity in the Food System Webinar Trainings, Duke World Food Policy Center and Communities in Partnerships - Completed Fall 2022
- Introduction to Entomology, NC Botanical Garden (NCBG) - Completed 6/2022
- Native Plant Propagation, NCBG - Completed September, 2022
- Climate Resilient Landscapes, NCBG - Completed September, 2022
- Southeast Native Medicinals, NCBG - Completed May, 2021

Reasons You Wish to be Appointed

Sense of place and community have always been important to me. While I was in school at UNC-CH, I lived right over the border from Carrboro in Chapel Hill. After a few years away, I returned to Carrboro because I knew this was the community I wanted to be a part of. I loved the walk/bike-ability, culture, local businesses, and people of Carrboro. I have been looking for a way to support this community and feel like the opportunity to participate in an advisory committee is the right fit.

More specifically, I have a professional background in environmental work through my career in agriculture as mentioned in the experience section. I have concerns related to loss of biodiversity and topsoil, and increases in stormwater runoff and flooding that all relate to stormwater management. As the Town of Carrboro develops and updates old stormwater systems, I'd like to emphasize green stormwater infrastructure practices and protection of existing natural spaces when

possible as both can lead to improved stormwater management and benefit the environment, ecological health, and sequester carbon. Additionally, I believe green stormwater practices can add beauty and environmental education to public spaces furthering their benefits and enjoyable quality. At the same time, when green infrastructure is not an option, I want to ensure the Town pursues strategies that will help us effectively manage stormwater to reduce flooding, ensure public health, and support local waterways and ecosystems.

We believe as a Town and as a Town Council that racial equity and diversity and inclusion are important. Please tell us your thoughts about this and why they are important not only in advisory board/commission work but also in all facets of local government and community work.

I believe EDI is a critical framework to creating a healthier, just society for all community members, specifically those who have been historically disenfranchised and oppressed. I want to work to reverse these vast inequities to BIPOC and minority communities. I believe one of the first steps in this work is acknowledging the privilege and power I hold and the space I take up and how those things can have a negative impact on others even without that intention. Additionally, in working towards equity listening, building trust with communities, and giving space is critical. We should come in with the understanding that communities with lived experience should be listened to and understood as their own experts on the challenges they face and possible solutions.

I practice these principles in my own work as a community garden manager in a historically black and lower income community facing rapid gentrification. I am an outsider in this community so my first step is to acknowledge that and its potential impacts. One of our main focuses is listening to and building trust with our neighbors and not rushing that process. We have held several community events in the last year with the primary goal being to simply share our work and build comfort within the space for others. We also ask questions and listen intentionally at these events as well as in our program evaluation methods, and simply in everyday conversation so that we are always working towards a stronger understanding of how we can support the community. On a more personal note, I love this work because of the people. I'm an introverted person, but I love building relationships and leveraging our collective skills and power to benefit one another. I would love to be able to bring this work to a Town of Carrboro advisory board.

Have you ever served on any Town of Carrboro Committee or Board?

No

If yes, which one(s)?

Field not completed.

Are you currently serving on a Town Board or Committee? No

If yes, are you applying for a third consecutive term? No

If yes, please describe how you meet one, or more, of the following exceptions noted below.	I was required to answer the previous question "if yes, are you applying for a third consecutive term?*" . However, I am not currently serving on a Town Board/Committee and I never have.
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Wendy Welsh

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 9:21 AM
To: _Group - Town Clerk; Wendy Welsh
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Board Chair Report (Complete One Per Applicant)

Advisory Board Chair Report (Complete One Per Applicant)

Advisory Board Name:	SWAC
Chair Name	Jeanette O'Connor
Applicant First Name:	Mikey
Applicant Last Name:	Cristiano
1. Has the applicant previously served on this or another advisory board?	No
2. If yes, how many total years have they served?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
3. Is the applicant already serving on this advisory board and seeking reappointment to their second, full term?	No
4. Is the applicant already serving on this advisory board and completed their two full terms?	No
5. Is the applicant applying for a special or expert seat on the advisory board?	No
6. If yes, which seat?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
7. Did the applicant attend an advisory board meeting?	Yes
8. If applicant did not attend an advisory board meeting, did you contact them via phone or email?	<i>Field not completed.</i>

9. Applicant has demonstrated a clear understanding of the time commitment, roles, and responsibilities of serving on the advisory board:

Yes

10. If no, briefly explain:

Field not completed.

11. In addition to your comments above, please check other qualities that the applicant offers that would help the Advisory Board meet its goals for community representation. Please note that candidates who do not meet any of these qualities are still eligible for appointment. Please communicate any urgent needs and priorities for Advisory Board composition to your Town Council liaison.

Field not completed.

If other, please explain:

Field not completed.

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