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Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Jacqueline Beaudry
City Clerk
City of Ann Arbor
jbeaudry@a2gov.org

Re. City Council First Ward Appointment Application

Ms. Beaudry, Mayor Taylor, and Honorable Council Members,

I would like to declare my interest in filling the vacancy that will be created when Councilwoman Briere steps down from her position. Ms. Briere's work and advocacy on behalf of the city and Ward 1 residents has been phenomenal, and will be dearly missed. I am qualified for the position and would be a wise choice to continue to bring a strong, balanced, rational, and educated voice to the council table. Below I highlight my most pertinent experiences and skills as they relate to the position, as well as my primary interests in applying.

Knowledge of the city and the City.

For the past 15 years, my work has been deeply rooted in Ann Arbor. As the Volunteer & Stewardship Coordinator at the Huron River Watershed Council and, previously, City of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation Department, I partner with thousands of residents every year. I understand Ann Arbor residents' needs and how they expect to be treated. This work has taught me how to find compromises and make hard choices, and this has become second nature to me. My work has given me detailed understanding of the complexities of the city's funding systems, staffing, operations, and legal constraints, as well as the politics behind these matters.

Understanding future implications.

Working with a number of nonprofits, mentoring numerous young professionals, and ensuring my volunteers' work is productive has taught me that seeing past today and tomorrow helps ensure greater degrees of success. Charting and navigating towards a vision of the future has proven to be a skill that helps us achieve shared success. In my professional life, pursuing professional credentialing and taking leadership roles locally and nationally has been rewarding and successful.

Balanced leadership.

Growing up with less than most of our community, but being born with distinct privileges, I have directly experienced many of the dichotomies of life. As a unionized supervisor with the City, I developed and practiced many tools of effective leadership. We need to hold ourselves to the highest standards, while being realistic. We need to plan ahead, while being opportunistic. We need to be firm and compassionate, and to be able to hold divergent information and views, and synthesize them.

Extensive background.

I have worked for numerous local organizations and agencies, where I have learned to build houses and roads, to understand natural ecosystems and cultural pluralism, and to use a chainsaw in the river and a hammock in the woods. I also know how to run for City Council. My experience and the gifts I have been given throughout my life have led me to appreciate complexity, and identify root causes; to approach collaboration using a myriad of methods; to recognize the significance of group facilitation and process; the power of positivity, and the absolute and unwavering need to treat everyone with respect.

Working with and supported by the community.

In addition to a strong network through my paid work, I have spent my personal time helping enrich our community through local organizations and initiatives, as well as boards and commissions. This time promoting local economies, foods, environment, and equality has given me a powerful lens to see the diverse interests, needs, and strengths of our residents. Dozens of residents have encouraged me to step up and serve on council. Given the current political and social problems we are facing, we need to actively build bridges within our fair city and I have the demonstrated ability to do this.

Strong beliefs.

The City of Ann Arbor is doing many things right – police and fire protection, garbage collection, water and wastewater services. We need to ensure these services continue to be delivered efficiently and cost effectively. To foster continual improvement, leadership should support services that work well and listen to those doing the work. The City is also falling short in a number of ways, including many environmental metrics, positive community engagement, and support for disenfranchised community members. We must, especially in our newly uncertain national political climate, ensure all of our community members are safe.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration of my application. I believe my skills, experience, and commitment make me quite well qualified for the position. Equally importantly, my disposition and interests would be a strong, positive addition to council and for our city.

Thank you for your service to our community,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CJ Frenzel', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Jason Frenzel, CVA

Enclosure: resume

CHARLES JASON FRENZEL, CVA

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Objective: Increase the capacity of individuals and organizations to improve the communities of southeastern Michigan

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Volunteer & Stewardship Coordinator, Huron River Watershed Council

2011 – Present

- Successfully recruit, orient, and train 100s of citizen volunteers every year
- Recruit volunteers for unique positions such as program manager, event planner, and database consultant
- Empower coworkers to recognize programmatic needs, build volunteer positions, and create and execute recruitment plans
- Coordinate 750+ volunteers to work throughout 900 square mile watershed every year
- Create and manage innovative projects and volunteer positions to increase resident involvement in mission and organization
- Routinely lead trainings and conduct recruitment presentations to groups ranging in size up to 200
- Oversee volunteer-led education program in local schools working with 800+ students per year
- Initiate and lead organizational volunteer appreciation including annual awards and recognition events
- Organize diversity and inclusion measures
- Develop and implement evaluation methods to increase volunteer retention and organizational efficiency
- Over 50% success rate in grant applications, including a \$250k award
- Manage major database restructuring projects, with successful adoption by all staff

Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, City of Ann Arbor, Natural Area Preservation

2001 – 2011

- Hired, trained, mentored, supervised, and evaluated up to six Volunteer Outreach Assistants yearly
- Coordinated oversight of 2000 volunteers per year
- Trained and oversaw leadership of 180 stewardship workdays annually
- Editor-in-chief of newsletter with circulation of 4500
- Trained staff and advanced volunteers on public relations, including educating on native ecosystems and invasive plants
- Oversaw an increase in number of advanced volunteer Park Stewards from 6 to 50
- Created volunteer and staff organizational hierarchies and procedures to allow drastic increase in volunteer participation
- Developed and oversaw new volunteer programs such as Adopt-A-Park, Citizen Pruner, and Street Tree Planter
- Mentored other City staff to develop volunteer programs and positions
- Initiated organizational diversity program
- Maintained database of volunteer efforts, including 4000 individuals, and up to 5500 yearly volunteer hours
- Budgeted and managed half of a \$750k organizational budget

Groundwater Technician, Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program

1998 – 2001

- Coordinated program efforts in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties
- Provided technical expertise to farmers regarding groundwater protection
- Aided agricultural producers in meeting environmental regulations
- Developed and wrote grant proposals, educational materials, public service announcements, and news releases
- Oversaw AmeriCorps members in Washtenaw and Wayne Counties
- Presented to community groups, schools, and landowners to promote environmental awareness on such topics as household wastewater, drinking well water, and storm water issues

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Environmental Resource Applications, Michigan State University

1998

CHARLES JASON FRENZEL, CVA

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

City of Ann Arbor

Environmental Commission member

2015 – Present

Natural Area Park Steward

2011 – Present

Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement

2014 – Present

- President Elect, Board of Directors

Slow Food Huron Valley

- Facilitated board retreat (Dec 2010)
- Volunteer management consultant (2007 – present)

HomeGrown Festival

2007 – Present

- Committee Co-Chair (2009 – present)
- Planning Committee member & Volunteer Coordinator (2007 – 2009)

Local Food Summit

2008 – Present

- Planning Committee Facilitator (2010 – present)
- Planning Committee member & Volunteer Coordinator (2009 – present)

Stewardship Network

2005 – Present

Huron Arbor Cluster Planning Committee Chair

- Coordinate Planning Committee activities
- Co-facilitate community-based needs identification and solution creation
- Lead trainings on topics regarding volunteer management

Washtenaw Area Volunteer Coordinators

2002 – Present

- Advisory Board (2012 – present)
- Treasurer (2010 – present)
- Co-Chair (2009 & 2010)

Jim Toy Community Center (previously Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project)

1995 – Present

- Co-Facilitated board retreat (2011 & 2015)
- Volunteer management consultant (2005 – present)
- Office & facility tasks (1987 – present)

SKILLS/INTERESTS

- Numerous yearly presentations and consultations regarding volunteer recruitment, management, and retention
- Mentoring of young professionals
- Remodeling and construction
- Avid outdoor runner

CERTIFICATIONS/AWARDS:

- Slow Food Huron Valley “Local Food Superhero” award (2014)
- Certification in Volunteer Administration “CVA” (2010 – present)
- Wild Ones “Honorary Bob Grese Deep Roots Award” (2010)
- Michigan Commercial Pesticide Applicator License (2008 – present)

COMPUTER LITERACY:

- Microsoft Office suite, including Access and Publisher
- Adobe products, including InDesign
- Content management systems including Blackbaud, Salesforce, and Vertical Response