

Application of Yahya Abdul-Qadir

Your name: Yahya Abdul-Quadir

Section 3 Questions for you to complete. (If you need more space, you may attach additional pages.)

A. Please review the following requirements from the Home Rule Charter for serving on the Commission on Parks and Recreation. How do you meet those qualifications?

“Qualifications. The members shall have demonstrated experience or skills relevant to the powers and duties of the Commission including, but not limited to: sports, recreation and athletic programming; natural lands management, watershed management, and environmental protection; tourism, marketing and public relations; business and finance; neighborhood revitalization; community leadership; historical and architectural preservation; landscaping and horticulture; and fundraising. The Commission shall also be reflective of the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity within the City.”

A recreation professional for almost 15 years I have worked in many capacities within the industry. As a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional I have demonstrated practical knowledge of the current complex and dynamic environment of the parks and recreation industry. The certification is also a testament to my professional commitment. Earning a M.S. in Recreation Administration from Aurora University in Illinois and a B.S. of Sports and Recreation Management from Temple University I have gained the theoretical foundation for addressing issues within parks and recreation agencies. I am currently on the Alumni Board for the School of Tourism & Hospitality Management. I am also a past Fairmount Park Ranger and Outward Bound instructor. All of which have made me well acquainted with Fairmount Park and Recreation programming throughout the city. I spent 8 years employed with the Department of Defense as a military recreation professional (5 years in Japan and 3 at Willow Grove Naval Air Station) overseeing sports, recreation and athletic programs for the dependence of military personnel. I also spent two years in municipal recreation for one of the nation's best parks and recreation departments in the Mid-west. This experience provided intimate knowledge of the relationship resident a large metropolitan parks & recreation have with their park district and their needs and challenges. My current employment is with the University of Pennsylvania as an Assistant Director of Campus Recreation. I have a strong interest in parks land use as I have been a long time hiker, mountain biker and rock climber in Wissahickon Valley. I have also been instrumental in creating youth recreation opportunities within religious communities in both Milwaukee and Philadelphia. With this said, I believe I qualify for membership on the Commission on Parks and Recreation.

Your name: Yahya Abdul-Qadir

B. In these difficult economic times, what do you think the Commission on Parks and Recreation should do to support, promote, and invest in the City's park and recreation system? As a member of the Commission, what would you do to assist the Commission in achieving these goals?

I believe that the Commission should continue to support and present program ideas and initiatives that empowers resident to take ownership of the parks and recreation facilities via providing continual volunteer opportunities, programs and events that bring residences out as park and recreation center users. Programs and events must remain diverse as the residences of the city but also as progressive and relevant as programs in other cities. One of the major keys to successful Park & Recreation programs is to empower residences to assist in enhancing their quality of life through the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department.

Another way to invest in the City's park and recreation system is to seek alternative funding sources via grants, user fees and a marketing strategy that promotes Philadelphia's parks as a historic and ideal recreation venue for national events, i.e. The X-games, movie shoots etc.

As a member of the Commission, I bring wide range of experiences, expertise and an intimate knowledge of the recreational needs of our residence. I have a solid understanding of recreation programming, fiscal oversight of municipal budgets, and recreation administration operations. Based on my experiences and education I'm able to provide legitimate sound advice, program ideas and new guidelines, in conjunction with the other Commission members, to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

C. Please review the role and responsibilities of the Commission, which are set forth in Part I of this application. Then, please attach a statement of no more than 500 words explaining why you want to serve on the Commission Parks and Recreation and why you believe you should be nominated to do so.

Please see attachment~

Section 4, Resume: Please attach to this application an up-to-date resume. Include your name, but do not include any personal contact information (street address, phone number, e-mail address) that you do not wish to be publicly available. On the resume, please provide the following information:

- Your employment history – employers, job titles and responsibilities, and dates of employment. If you have been self-employed, include that information.**
- Your education or training – schools attended, degrees attained, and dates.**
- Your community and professional organizations, affiliations, and activities.**
- Optional: Any additional information that you consider relevant to this application.**

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Mr. Yahya Abdul-Qadir, CPRP

C. Why I want to serve on the Commission Parks and Recreation

Why I believe I should be nominated to serve on the Commission Parks and Recreation

Serving the Philadelphia community by being nominated to the Commission of Parks and Recreation would truly be an honor and is the optimal forum to advocate for my passion of recreation programming. I have invested almost 15 years working and being educated in an industry that I believe is a civic right for all residence. My recreation philosophy is that every citizen deserves to recreate and rejuvenate as a balance to their lives. And I believe that recreation programs and parks are the perfect place to do so. In that sense, I believe that parks and recreation departments play a vital role, as other municipal department in a well function city. And believe that my experience, expertise, passion for recreation programming and love for Philadelphia is well suited to assist in steering the direction of the department.

I believe I should be nominated to the Commission because of my strong understanding for recreation programming and my commitment to the industry. All though I have programmed for various demographics which have included seniors, adults, and youth, my special interest and a large portion of my experience is programming for youth 5-18. This is a demographic that is in need of attention by the department; my insight would be of a great benefit to both the department and the community.

In addition to my specialty area of youth recreation programming, I also have an additional academic and recreational interest in environmental studies and green space usage. As a long time hiker, backpacking, rock climber and mountain biker I have heighten my green space sensibilities and increased my interest in the recreational impact to these spaces. I am a Leave No Trace wilderness ethics trainer which also translates into urban green space ethics. My diverse background and experiences is well suited for membership on the Commission.

Mr. Yahya A. Qadir, CPRP

Education: M.S. Recreation Administration (August 2009)
George Williams College of Aurora University, Williams Bay, WI

B.S. Sports & Recreation Mgt (May 2001)
Temple University, Philadelphia PA

Associate of Arts; Education (May 1999)
Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA

Outdoor Leadership course graduate (August 1996)
National Outdoor Leadership School, Lander, WY

Experience: Present

Assistant Director, Programs, University of Penn, Philadelphia, PA

- Recruit, hire, train and schedule part-time staff
- Manage Climbing Wall & Team Building program
- Utilize strong leadership & management skills to lead programs for the diverse population
- Develop, implement and manage program budget
- Responsible for conducting reoccurring special events
- Establish and oversee risk management policies and procedures
- Develop program policies & oversee student clubs related to program
- Train & supervise interns, staff and volunteers

2009- 2010

Asst. Recreation Supervisor, MPS- Recreation Division, Milwaukee, WI

- Developed and managed year round community recreation program
- Managed 3 community centers and 3 satellite programs
- Evaluated the effectiveness of existing programs to ensure relevance
- Established partnerships with governmental, community and school entities
- Supervised over 30 part-time employees and program instructors
- Oversaw program budget and expenditures

2009- 2009

Recreation Therapist, Lakeview, Waterford, WI

- Developed & implemented recreation programs for special youth population
- Researched providing Special Olympic involvement for facility
- Gained value insight in programming for special populations
- Monitored classroom for outpatient school aged students

2008- 2008

Administrative Assistant, Fox Valley Special Rec Assoc., Aurora, IL
Graduate Assistantship

- Managed part-time staff payroll
- Maintained facility rentals
- Updated and provided input to Risk Management procedures and manual

2004- 2008

Supervisory Recreation Specialist, Misawa Air Base, Japan
Director, Youth Sports & Youth Programs

- Organized and Implemented seasonal sports leagues for ages 4-18
- Supervised Teen, Before & After School Programs and Youth Center
- Supervised Community Instructional program for adults and children
- Conducted numerous special events annually
- Managed multi operating budgets to include 2 Government Purchase Cards
- Coordinated over 500 volunteers, coaches, team parents and officials
- Marketed and publicized all activities and events
- Managed contracted services for 3 facilities and 2 programs
- Researched and submitted BGCA grants to supplement programming

- 2003- 2004 Recreation Specialist, Yokosuka Navy Base, Yokosuka Japan
 Youth Sports Coordinator
 -Developed & conducted sports clinics for ages 4-15
 -Conducted coaches certification and informational clinics
 -Organized special events, i.e. sports tournaments & Jamborees
 -Coordinated leisure class, i.e. gymnastics & martial arts
 -Conducted community needs assessments
- 1999- 2003 Supervisory Recreation Specialist, Naval Air Station, Willow Grove PA
 Youth Programs Director
 -Implemented a comprehensive youth program for ages 5-18
 -Program purchasing agent
 -Developed and implemented program budget inputs
 -Hired, trained and supervised full-time and part-time staff
 -Developed and implemented summer and day camps
 -Developed and implemented various outdoor recreation field trips
- 1997- 1999 Park Ranger, Fairmount Park Ranger Corps, Philadelphia PA
 -Implemented interpretive and informational service to park users
 -Implemented Park rules and regulations through education programs
 -Provided ambassadorship services to Park users

Experience

- Part-Time:** 2005-2008 Part-time Ice Climbing Guide, Misawa Outdoor Rec, Misawa, Japan
 - Prepared, checked, and stored climbing gear
 - Introduced patrons to proper clothing for winter climbing
 - Demonstrated proper climbing techniques.
 - Scouted out climbing destination in Northern Japan
- 1999-2003 Part-time Instructor, Outward Bound, Philadelphia PA
 -Co-led youth ages 12-14 on Canoe and Hiking Expeditions
 -Implemented team building initiatives
 -Planned trip details
- 1998-2000 Part-time Instructor, Temple University, Philadelphia PA
 -Taught Backpacking and Adventure courses to undergraduates
 -Led students on a backpack, hiking and rock climbing outings
 -Developed course curriculum, selected text and processed grades
- 1997-2001 Indoor and Outdoor Climbing Guide, Phila Rock Gym, Oaks PA
 - Guided outdoor climbing program
 - Taught indoor climbing skills to first time users
 - Monitored indoor climbing wall for patron and equipment safety
- 1994-1996 Program Administrator, Jawala Youth Leadership Program, Philadelphia PA
 -Co-founder of Scouting and Leadership Program
 -Led Outdoor Recreation activities, i.e. hiking and backpacking
 -Organize community volunteers to teach vocational skills
 -Mentored at-risk-youth in life, school and job skills

Trainings & Certifications:

- Certified Parks and Recreational Professional
 Wilderness Advanced First Aid
 Project Adventure course participant- various courses
 AMGA- Single Pitch Instructor
 Leave No Trace, Wilderness Ethics Trainer
 American Red Cross Fundamentals of Instructor Training course
 American Red Cross Lay Responder, First Aid, CPR and AED
 American Red Cross Life Guard Training and First Aid

Certified Intermediate Archery Instructor
EEO training for supervisors, 2 hrs 09-2001
Safety, Fire and Emergency Procedures Training, 06-2001
Navy Youth Programs Training, 21 hrs, 03-2003
Leadership Skill for Managers, 40 hrs, 03-2004
MWR Managers' Course, 32 hrs, 10-2004
NAF Supervisor's Training 10-2005
Supervisor's Safety Training, 03-2006

Awards/ Recognition:

2007 Excellence in Youth Sport Award
2007 Program of the Year- Youth Programs- 35th Service Squadron
5 Year US Government Service Recognition
Manager of the Quarter, 4th Quarter 2006- 35th Service Squadron
Program of the Quarter, Youth Sports, 4th Qtr 2006
2006 National Alliance for Youth Sports Honorable Mention

Professional Affiliation:

School of Tourism & Hospitality Management Alumni Board Member

Your name: Yahya Abdul-Oaadir

Section 5. Optional supporting materials. You are invited to submit up to three letters of recommendation. You may submit them along with your application or separately. If you have not submitted them by the time that Council holds its public hearing for applicants, please bring the letters with you and submit them when your name is called.

Section 6. Signature. Please sign on the line immediately below. If you are submitting your application by e-mail directly from your computer, type your name instead.



Section 7. Date. Indicate the date that you are submitting this application:

5/9/12

If you are selected to serve on the Commission on Parks and Recreation, you will be required to file the City's annual financial disclosure form. You will also be subject to ethics laws applicable to City boards and commissions (and to the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia Board of Ethics). In addition, the Mayor's Executive Order No. 3-10 requires that appointees to City boards and commissions be in compliance with tax laws and all City fines and fees; in that connection, you will be required to complete a "Tax Clearance Application," which will authorize the City's Department of Revenue to confirm that you are in compliance (or have entered into a voluntary payment agreement).

If you have questions about the application process, please contact
Theresa Brunson at 215-686-3424 or
Hal Fichandler at 215-686-7667.

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