

Application of Jeffrey N. Carroll

Your name: Jeffrey Carroll

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.”

I meet the requirements from the Home Rule Charter to serve on the Commission on Parks and Recreation in three primary ways.

First, I have served as captain of several recreational teams that are housed in the Philadelphia parks. This includes 7 years as captain for an adult United States Tennis Association team, “Lakeside.” whose home tennis courts reside in FDR Park in South Philadelphia. I have been engaged in the activity of the park’s Friends of FDR Park group that regularly organizes cleanup and maintenance activities. I have also served as a captain to a Philadelphia Kickball League team for 4 years whose home field is Starr Garden at 7th and Lombard.

Second, I have been heavily involved in youth educational programming involving the park system as part of my work at Temple University as coordinator of two research groups. In the “BITS” program, I led groups of youth for 5 years as program coordinator in the creation of a community geographic information system that draws on the perspectives and experiences of program participants. For 2 years, I served as advisor to a group of youth who focused on sustainability issues as part and parcel of their responsibility of identifying and addressing public policy issues in Rep. Dwight Evans Youth Leadership Summit. In addition, I have served as project coordinator to conduct a film project in collaboration with WHYY regarding youth access to recreational activities within Philadelphia.

Last, I would add to the racial/ethnic diversity of those serving local government as Filipino-American. As it stands, there are very few local government officials that are Pacific Islander in Philadelphia as Pacific Islanders make up less than ½ of 1% of the City's overall population.

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?

If chosen as a member of the Commission, I would enact a three-prong programmatic strategy that would support, promote, and invest in the City's park and recreation system.

I. Volunteerism

The City is heavily dependent on its citizenry for the maintenance of its park and recreational facilities. Municipalities across the country have engaged in innovative means to encourage volunteerism in its parks and recreational facilities that include collaborating with local universities to enact programs, sponsorship of area businesses for cleanups, and bolstering the capacity of area community groups to provide outreach. As a member of the Commission, I would create a comprehensive strategy to encourage citizens to volunteer in the City's 75 parks and 200 recreational facilities.

II. Fundraising

In the midst of these harsh economic times, it has become increasingly difficult to find funding that will support the upkeep and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. Thus, it is imperative that the Commission employ innovative tactics to generate much needed fiscal support. This includes both traditional and modern fundraising techniques that include but not limited to the creation of a social networking fundraising campaign, community based events, and grant-writing. As member of the Commission, I would create a systematic plan of action to fundraise for parks and recreation.

III. Advocacy at the State Level

Philadelphia's park and recreational facilities are valuable assets in which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania plays an integral role. State officials are essential in establishing the environmental standards that govern all Commonwealth parks in addition to sponsoring several programs for children and families that are housed in Philadelphia's parks and recreational facilities. As member of the Commission, I would act as an advocate of for parks and recreation in Harrisburg.

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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.

I am driven to apply to the Commission sparked by my conversation with the citizenry regarding the parks and recreational centers' economic impact to the City and the region. According to a 2008 report by the Trust for Public Land Center for City Park Excellence, the Philadelphia park system alone creates \$115 annual tourist spending, \$23 million in supplemental tax receipts, and \$689 million in private wealth created through enhanced commercial and residential property values. As the nation's economy is increasingly attentive to cost-saving, sustainable initiatives, Philadelphia is a prime position to utilize its park and recreational facilities as an incubator to its local, "green" economy. Investment into the parks also translates into savings in the areas of public health and safety. I want to serve on the Commission to ensure that Philadelphia's parks and recreation system is well maintained and sufficiently invested, as it is an undervalued asset of the local economy.

I am an ideal candidate to serve on the Commission for several reasons. First, as a Doctoral Candidate at Temple University who holds Master Degrees in Urban Studies and Political Science and teaches a course on Philadelphia's government, I have a competent understanding of local public policy. I will be able to utilize my technical expertise in order to navigate the complexities of the standards and guidelines relating to the use of the City's park and recreation facilities. I will bring added value to the Commission through my expertise with research, grant-writing, and program coordination. Second, I will be able to engage in substantial capacity building through my extended network that includes several local and state elected officials, area non-profits, and community organizations. As Commissioner, I will engage this network in order to enact thoughtful plans to enhance the state of park and recreational facilities.

Jeffrey N. Carroll

Employment History

- Doctoral Candidate and Instructor in Political Science, Temple University** 2005- Present
- Teach courses in the Department of Political Science in American Politics with specialization in Urban Politics, Urban Public Policy, and State and Local Government.
- Graduate Fellow, Information Technology & Society Research Group** 2003 - Present
- Literacy coordinator and program manager for research group at Temple University that examines the societal concerns related to the use of information and communication technologies in education, health, and civic engagement.
- Exam Reader, Educational Testing Service** 2010 - Present
- Reader for Advanced Placement (AP) Exams in the area of U.S. Government and Politics
- Teaching and Research Assistant in Geography and Urban Studies, Temple University** 2003 -2005
- Served as teaching and research assistant to faculty in the Department of Geography and Urban Studies.
- Intellectual Property Paralegal, Dechert LLP** 2001 -2003
- Responsible for research relating to the clearance of trademarks and copyrights in the intellectual property practice group of Philadelphia law firm, Dechert LLP.

Education

- Ph.D. Political Science, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA** 2013 (Expected)
- M.A. Political Science, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA** 2007
- M.A. Urban Studies, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA** 2005
- B.A. English, Minor: American Studies, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA** 2001

Community and Professional Organizations

Friends of FDR Park, United States Tennis Association, Philadelphia Kickball League, Philadelphia Sports Network, Temple University Graduate Student Union (TUGSA), American Political Science Association

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.

Please see attached pages.

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.

Letters of recommendation will be submitted at the public hearing.

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.

Jeffrey Carroll

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

May 8, 2012

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.

This is the last page of the application.