

Application of Leslie Anne Miller

Your name: Leslie Anne Miller

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. My record of professional and public service, combined with my deep appreciation of Fairmount Park as Philadelphia’s most important natural asset, provides me with a unique set of qualifications to serve on the Commission. I would like to continue to apply them to this body as it develops to the next stage of its existence.

First, I have extensive legal background developed during thirty years of practice in both the private and public sector (e.g. civil litigation, mediation and counsel to Governor Rendell). My legal training is second nature to me and has been brought to bear on all of my work with the Commission. I believe it has made me a more effective member of the group – as a listener, strategic thinker and consensus builder.

Second, I have always combined community service with my professional life. Consequently, during the thirty years that I’ve practiced law, I have also been active in a wide variety of community organizations, often in leadership roles. There are six examples which have particular relevance for my service on the Commission:

- (1.) **Philadelphia Commission on Parks and Recreation** – appointed by Mayor Nutter in 2009 as member of original Commission.

- (2.) **The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts** - Acting President (2001)- Assumed leadership of organization in May 2001 at the request of the Board and helped to: complete the fundraising of \$265 Million project; finalize contracts with seven resident companies and plan/execute opening celebration.
- (3.) **Women for the Water Works** - Chair (2006 -) – Raised \$5 Million to complete remaining renovations(Cliffside Paths and South Gardens) of this thirty year project in Fairmount Park. The group is now evaluating its next project for the Park.
- (4.) **Fairmount Park Conservancy** - Vice President/Board Member (2006 -) "fundraising arm" of Fairmount Park.
- (5.) **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** – Executive Committee/Council; Chair, The Green City Strategy Committee – developing strategy to build further support for one of the nation's most comprehensive greening programs.
- (6.) **The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation** – (Department of Recreation) - First Vice President – part of the "fundraising arm" of the Free Library System.

As a result of my extensive experience in leading and fundraising for Philadelphia's not for profits, I have gained an understanding of this community, which has been invaluable during my recent tenure on the Commission. I would like to continue to use the skills and connections to continue to benefit this emerging body. In particular, my efforts on behalf of those park-related organizations, i.e. Water Works, Fairmount Conservancy, Philadelphia Horticultural Society, have increased my understanding of Fairmount Park, its strengths and weaknesses and its potential place in Philadelphia's future. It is truly our greatest asset, the "jewel" in Billy Penn's "green countrie towne". It is our civic responsibility to steward it for future generations. The Commission has the potential to play an increasing role in working towards this goal with ALL of the park-related organizations.

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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?

Fundraising can, of course, be done in a variety of ways: raising monies from the corporate and private communities, seeking grants from foundations and using the parks assets to generate revenues wherever possible without compromising the integrity of the Park's mission. Members of the Commission should employ these methods and their collective experience to continue to expand and diversify the current system of generating revenue. The Commission's fundraising must be coordinated with the Fairmount Conservancy and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Equally important is the Commission's advisory role in prudent management of the existing assets of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Having thoughtfully developed standards and guidelines for actions that have a potential impact on the City's park land or recreational facilities, it is imperative that the Commission now monitor their implementation. It is critical that the public have a voice in this process and the Commission must ensure that this happens. These guidelines should be accorded significant weight by the Parks Commissioner in his official decisions regarding park lands and facilities, and the Commission must ensure that they are followed.

Finally, the commissioners must be constant "Ambassadors" for the Parks and Recreation System, throughout Philadelphia and the region. Fairmount Park is still one of Philadelphia's "best kept secrets." It needs to be "sold" as reason to visit and/or use the City of Philadelphia – for business or pleasure. The Commission must be a partner in this effort.

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.

C. I believe that I should be re-nominated to the Commission on Parks and Recreation for the following reasons:

- (1.) I recognize the importance of the system of Parks and Recreation to the city of Philadelphia and have been working hard to improve and perpetuate it through my involvement in the Fairmount Park Conservancy, PA Horticultural Society and the Commission on Parks and Recreation.

(2.) I would like to continue to help forge the relationship between the Commission and the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and the key related stake holders. It is critically important now, more than ever, that we work together in a strong, supportive and collaborative way, keeping in mind at all times our responsibility to the mission of the Park's System.

I believe that my collective professional and community experience served me well as one of the initial members of the Commission and can continue to do so as we enter the next phase of the Commission's development.

(3.) I am a prodigious fundraiser and a strong strategic thinker having developed my skills in a wide variety of not for profit and political organizations. I can continue to apply these skills to the ongoing needs of the Parks and Recreation system.

(4.) As a community activist, I believe that I can continue being helpful in developing consensus among various park elated groups on important issues related to the system. It is critical to unify these groups in support of the work of the Commissioner and, ultimately, the Administration. Our common goal should be to strengthen the Department of Parks and Recreation.

(5.) I love Fairmount Park and want to do everything I can to make it truly the "crown jewel" of our city's natural and economic resources.

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.

SEE ATTACHED PAGE

Leslie Anne Miller

Leslie Anne Miller, Esquire, is a consummate professional in the field of law who has been recognized locally and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for her leadership in service to the community. Known as an advocate of programs that advance women, she is also a proponent for work that fosters diversity in both the legal profession and business community.

She is currently a solo practitioner engaged in alternate dispute resolution. She also serves as an advisor to the Honorable Michael Nutter and co-chair of his Finance Committee, having performed that same role during his mayoral campaign and then continuing as a member of his transition team.

Ms. Miller was previously General Counsel for the Pennsylvania Office of General Counsel, the state's largest legal entity. In this position, she led a staff of more than 450 attorneys in representing Governor Edward G. Rendell and 32 executive and independent agencies in litigation, transactions, regulatory, legislative and criminal justice matters. Prior to her appointment to the Governor's Cabinet, Ms. Miller was partner and shareholder in the law firm of McKissock and Hoffman, P.C.

Miller is active in various non-profit and cultural organizations, all of which benefit from her professional creativity and innovation. Some of these include: the Penn Medicine Board, Mount Holyoke College (where she is a former Board of Trustees Chair), Temple University's Beasley School of Law, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Fairmount Park Conservancy, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Women's Law Project and the Mayor's Cultural Advisory Council.

Miller's thirty year career has been distinguished by myriad honors. By order of the Governor (Rendell), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs presented her with "The Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal". Former Governor Tom Ridge named her a "Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania". The Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania bestowed her their highest honor, the "Juliette Gordon Low Leadership Award." Miller received a "Founder's Award" from Temple University and has been inducted into the "Business Women's Hall of Fame" at the Fox School of Business. Friends of the Chamonix Mansion of Fairmount Park honored her and Drexel University College of Medicine presented her with the "Woman One" Award. She was one of five "Women Making History" for the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and a "Woman of Distinction" according to the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. Mount Holyoke College presented her with the "Alumnae Medal of Honor". Both the Philadelphia Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association have honored her, (she is a past recipient of the "Sandra Day O'Connor Award"), as have Dickinson School of Law and the Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Miller received an A.B., *cum laude*, from Mount Holyoke College and Master's Degree in Arts in Political Science from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. Dickinson School of Law conferred her J.D. and she received an L.L.M., with honors from Temple University's Beasley School of Law. She also received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Thomas Jefferson University and an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Wilson College.

Leslie Anne Miller is married to investment advisor Richard B. Worley. They reside in Bryn Mawr, PA.

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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.

TO BE PRESENTED AT 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.

Leslie Anne Miller

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

May 9, 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.