

Application of C. R. Robinson

Your name: CR Robinson

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.”

See additional pages at the end of the document for the answer to the question

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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?

See additional pages at the end of the document for the answer to the question

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.

See additional pages at the end of the document for the answer to the question

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.

Section 3 Question A

I have had a very rich experience working with neighborhood park groups while on staff at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The experience took me around the city for almost a decade. I coached and advised many park groups on organizing special events, programming and physical improvements. One of my first experiences was working the Friends of Bardiscino Park facilitating the installation of a new Bocce court in the Bel Arbor neighborhood. I helped to coordinate a basketball league used as a deterrent to violent crime at Connell Park in southwest Philadelphia. And working with Fairmount Park Commission coordinators, I learned of the challenges in connecting natural land and watershed management to inner city park groups and how it pertains to overall environmental sustainability. I have also experience in advising groups on how to engage local business associations and nearby business corridors to use the park for marketing and public relations and by doing that resulted in promoting the park as well. In addition, my experience includes coaching groups on their role in being focal to neighborhood revitalization. I am also familiar with facilitating neighborhood groups to turning vacant lots into parks by advocating for the appropriate city agency to acquire the properties. And as always, I've suggested that park groups use the resources available to them in landscape architecture and horticultural education at places like the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. I also coached groups on fundraising which includes but not limited to 50/50 drawings to bank foundation grants to DCED state and city capital fund allocations.

Section 3 Question B

The Commission on Parks and Recreation should implement ideas that would generate revenue. I would also suggest looking into possible concessions that fit within the boundaries of the PARC mission and charter.

As a member of the Commission, I would assist the Commission by creating and offering inspired ideas that would help meet the desired outcomes. Also, I could assist in neighborhood engagement as it pertains to getting citizen input and feedback regarding new ideas and initiatives.

Section 3 Question C

I would like to serve on the Commission because of my love and passion for my city's Parks. This love affair did not stop with my venturing from PHS as a staff member to pursue other life fulfilling efforts. It continues to this day. I offer over 18 years of community organizing experience. I also offer the understanding of what and how to convert everyday folks into stewards of the land. It was my PHS experience that converted me. I went from tree vandal to tree advocate. I also offer the perspective that sustainable Parks and recreational sites are a quality of life issue. During apartheid, beaches along with parks were segregated. And with that, I carry a message that every neighborhood should have vibrant open spaces and sustainable practices as a matter of social justice. I am familiar with many parks and park groups throughout the city. I also have gained tremendous wisdom in knowing how to get an understanding of what neighborhoods may desire. I believe that I should be nominated to serve on the Commission to bring inspired ideas, a grassroots perspective, citywide experience in kitchen table organizing with park groups, and a face reflecting those effected by environmental sustainability issue but seldom represented.

CR Robinson

Objective I am looking for work that would use my community organizing skills towards social change.

Volunteer Experience

- Cleveland Elementary School Advisory Council
- Jerome Brown Park Playground Advisory Council
- Fight For Lifers, Chairperson
- Concerned Voters of the 2000 Block of Bellevue Street, Founder
- Democratic City Committee Person, 11th Ward, 17th Division
- Racism, No More campaign, Founder
- Tioga United, former zoning subcommittee, chairperson
- Environmental Leadership Program, 2007
- Richard Allen Lodge #30, Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons

Experience

Senior Project Coordinator of Community Building
May 15, 2000 to May 1, 2009, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Philadelphia, PA, 19103

- Organized Philadelphia Green's Advocacy Event Series
- Organized and coached neighborhood park groups through the City of Philadelphia

Education

- University of Penn, Diction and Speech , 2005
- the Nyman Group, presentation skills training, 2005
- Morris Arboretum, 2004
- Delaware Valley High School, Class of 1987, *first male offspring of those enslaved in the United States to graduate valedictorian.*

Interests I have an affinity for electorate politics, people, and words. What they can do together, in my mind, has no limit.

References Joan Reilly, William Goldsby and Fred Lewis: contact info will be forwarded upon request.

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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.

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.

CR Robinson CR Robinson

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

5/09/2012

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.