
General Information

All County Board and Commission members must be residents of Los Alamos County. Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board members, except the at-large community member, do not need to be residents if they are employed/represent an attraction or hotel.

Once a resident fills out and submits this application, an interview is scheduled with the B&C's County Council liaison, the relevant staff liaison, and the B&C Chair. After the interviews, the applicants' names are presented to the full Council during a regularly scheduled Council meeting, where a vote is taken regarding the appointment of each applicant. Each applicant will be notified if they are appointed or not.

Only on-line applications will be considered.

If you are interested in applying for Labor Relations Board, please contact Denise Cassel at 505-662-8047.

Profile

Board and Commission Application

Note: Please be aware that as a public entity, the County of Los Alamos, is obligated to furnish this information to the public if requested. Note also that current LANL employees, if appointed to a Board or Commission, may be required by LANL to complete a 701 form.

Megan

First Name

L

Middle Initial

Hesselink

Last Name

Street Address

City

Email Address

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

Party affiliation as registered: (Select one of the following) *

☒ Democrat

Registered to vote in Los Alamos?

☒ Yes ☐ No

How did you learn of this Board/Commission vacancy?

Facebook posting on local group

Do you currently serve on any County Board or Commission?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, which one? (Los Alamos County law prohibits residents from serving concurrently on more than one County board except as expressly approved in writing by the County Council before the appointment is made.)

Interests & Experiences

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks and Recreation: Submitted

Why would you like to serve on this particular Board or Commission?

I have a strong interest in the outdoors and providing important services to the residents of our county. I am going back to school to achieve an additional undergrad degree in forestry and wildlife management in order to pursue a long-term career in the field. I am a newer resident to this area and eager to give back and learn more about this community.

What volunteer or professional activities have you participated in that could apply to this appointment?

I have nearly ten years of proven experience in the digital marketing field, which I am eager to lend to the parks department in order to engage the residents of Los Alamos county in the parks programs. In my most recent full-time position, I was a senior digital marketing associate managing a multi-billion dollar social media campaign for the Department of Veterans Affairs during my time at Reingold, Inc. – a social impact firm out of Alexandria, Virginia. Additionally, I was also the marketing chairperson for Pets for Vets (PfV) - a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization that trained shelter pets to match the needs of veterans facing mental health challenges. I planned, implemented and reported on fundraising activities as well as managed the social media presence for PfV.

The time involved may be 10-15 hours per month or more. Are you able to serve the volunteer hours and attend training needed to perform your duties as an appointee?

Yes - I am presently not working and have time to dedicate to fulfilling the duties of this position.

**What would you like to accomplish during your tenure on this Board or Commission?
(Please identify any special interests you have that led you to become interested in serving on this Board or Commission.)**

I'm interested in developing long-term career in parks, wildlife or outdoor recreation while also giving back to this community. During my time on the board I would like to provide support on ongoing and upcoming projects like the BMX track, trail maintenance, open space planning and participating in the accomplishment of strategic long-term parks goals. Communication, organization and project management are some of my greatest strengths, which I believe the board could strongly benefit from.

Have you had any direct or indirect involvement with this Board or Commission or with the County staff supporting this Board or Commission or County Councilors? If so, please explain.

I have not.

Are there any issue or matters, financial or otherwise, that you are now or might become involved in that may come before the Board or Commission for which you seek appointment?

No.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lai at 505-663-3436 or barbara.lai@lacnm.us



County Manager's Office
BOARD & COMMISSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Megan Hesselink
Applicant's Name

Parks & Recreation Board
Board or Commission

Dianne Marquez
Interviewer Name

08/11/2020
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:
 Personally
 X Telephone

NOTE TO INTERVIEW PANEL: Please remember to use this interview as an opportunity to share Council's directives and guidance for B&C's.

#	Question/Documented Response
1	Please tell us a little about yourself and then describe your experience, education, and training that qualify you for this Board or Commission.
2	What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the County? What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the Board/commission you applied for? <i>[Note to interview panel: If the answer to this question appears to be off base with Council's position, please explore a little more.]</i> Housing shortage is really challenging - pretty penny to live here and know many commute. Adequate housing at a reasonable price challenge for County. Making sure represent needs of entire community and not just your ; serves a wide range of people and supporting it.
3	How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government? Important, have interviewed for a few in DC; important for PRB to take to Council informed recommendation how to serve community and prioritize what important.
4	What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess? Communication - to communicate effectively with public, fellow board members; stakeholders; council; Tell public what doing as a board important; being more transparent can get more public involved; marketing (digital) skills most effective way to communicate in this day and age.
5	What could you do, specifically, to foster a collaborative relationship between staff and the Board or Commission on which you would like to serve? Explore what looks like currently; evaluate what is and isn't working and reevaluate; always room for growth; communication is key. Asking and working together to fix.

6	<p>Have you served on any Boards, Commissions or Committees (not only County B&Cs – but also church groups, non-profit boards, school committees, etc.) within the last five years? What do you think was your greatest contribution during your tenure?</p> <p>Served on non-profit board as communication chairs; a lot of fundraising; organizing, selling tickets; getting people to attend. Sold out every event I was in charge of; using digital communication which is my wheelhouse.</p>
7	<p>Are you familiar with the County Charter and County Code as they apply to the Board you are applying for?</p> <p>Vaguely.</p>
8	<p>Are you willing to take the time to attend training sessions to become more knowledgeable about your duties and responsibilities in an advisory capacity?</p> <p>Absolutely</p>
9 N O	<p>Are you aware that, as a member of a Los Alamos County Board or Commission, your written communications, including e-mails, are public records (even if produced on your personal computer), and as such are subject to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If any of these public records are requested for review/inspection under the Act you may need to produce them. Is this a deterrent to your willingness to serve on this Board?</p>
10	<p>Currently, a few boards or commissions are “live streaming” their meetings (for example, the T-Board, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.) In the future, this may be required of all boards. If you’re applying for one of the boards currently streaming or if it becomes a requirement for all B&Cs to stream, is this - or will this - be a deterrent to your willingness to serve?</p> <p>No</p>
11	<p><i>[Interview panel: Ask questions you think necessary for clarification of the written answers this applicant provided as part of their application.]</i></p> <p>Subcommittees knowledge and and specific interest Open Space & Aquatic Center have peaked my interest.</p>
12	<p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>CIP background and history; have worked in tourism and community management online; would like training with Robert's Rules of Order;</p>

Notes:

County Manager's Office BOARD & COMMISSION INTERVIEW

QUESTIONS New

Applicant's Name M Hessenlink

Board or Commission: Parks and Rec

Interview notes by Dina Pesenson

NOTE TO INTERVIEW PANEL: Please remember to use this interview as an opportunity to share Council's directives and guidance for B&C's.

Question/Documented Response

1 Please tell us a little about yourself and then describe your experience, education, and training that qualify you for this Board or Commission.

Answer notes: previous career in marketing and PR. Fundraising for non profits. Getting degree in forestry.

2. What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the County? What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the Board/commission you applied for? *[Note to interview panel: If the answer to this question appears to be off base with Council's position, please explore a little more.]*

Answer notes: quality of communication and making sure community understands intentions behind actions. Her background is using social media to respond to customers concerns and questions in a positive and productive manner.

3 How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government?

Answer notes: extra communication point between community and council. Not entirely sure for this specific board, hoping to learn more quickly.

4 What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess?

Answer notes: high quality oral and written communication, organization, being up to date on subjects from each meeting and items brought up by community. Experience with all.

5 What could you do, specifically, to foster a collaborative relationship between staff and the Board or Commission on which you would like to serve?

Answer notes: assess to see what works, what doesn't, improve on current relationship one step at a time.

6 Have you served on any Boards, Commissions or Committees (not only County B&Cs – but also church groups, non-profit boards, school committees, etc.) within the last five years? What do you think was your greatest contribution during your tenure?

Answer notes: yes, lots of successful fundraising, social media communications and PR

work.

7 Are you familiar with the County Charter and County Code as they apply to the Board you are applying for?

Answer: No but happy to learn before serving. Could not easily find much on it online.

8 Are you willing to take the time to attend training sessions to become more knowledgeable about your duties and responsibilities in an advisory capacity? YES

9 Are you aware that, as a member of a Los Alamos County Board or Commission, your written communications, including e-mails, are public records (even if produced on your personal computer), and as such are subject to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If any of these public records are requested for review/inspection under the Act you may need to produce them. Is this a deterrent to your willingness to serve on this Board? NO

10 Currently, a few boards or commissions are "live streaming" their meetings (for example, the T-Board, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.) In the future, this may be required of all boards. If you're applying for one of the boards currently streaming or if it becomes a requirement for all B&Cs to stream, is this - or will this - be a deterrent to your willingness to serve? NO

11 *[Interview panel: Ask questions you think necessary for clarification of the written answers this applicant provided as part of their application.]*

12 Do you have any questions for the interview panel?

Notes

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Revised
8/6/2020



County Manager's Office
BOARD & COMMISSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Megan Hesselink
Applicant's Name

Parks and Rec
Board or Commission

Katrina Martin
Interviewer Name

8/11/2020 4:00
Date/Time of Interview

Interview Conducted:
 Personally
 Telephone

NOTE TO INTERVIEW PANEL: Please remember to use this interview as an opportunity to share Council's directives and guidance for B&C's.

#	Question/Documented Response
1	Please tell us a little about yourself and then describe your experience, education, and training that qualify you for this Board or Commission. Moved here last fall; he served in Navy, now at Lab Spent last 8 years in marketing and communications No direct experience, but going to school for wildlife and fisheries management Wants to contribute skills to Board
2	What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the County? What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the Board/commission you applied for? [Note to interview panel: If the answer to this question appears to be off base with Council's position, please explore a little more.] Housing shortage; LA and WR are great towns, but it's important and hard to provide housing with the land given Represent needs of entire community, not just own interests
3	How do you perceive the role of County Boards and Commissions in local government? Moved from Washington DC, applied but hard to snag a spot there Form recommendations on how best to serve community in parks and rec needs; help Council understand what's important in community, prioritizing
4	What specific skills do you feel are important for effective Board or Commission members? Which ones do you possess? Communication is #1- both with board members, public, Council Ability to have important conversations Ability to tell public what you are doing as a board; being more transparent can get more of the public involved; Has digital marketing skills, best way to be communicating in this day and age
5	What could you do, specifically, to foster a collaborative relationship between staff and the Board or Commission on which you would like to serve? Very interested in exploring what the relationship currently and evaluate what is and isn't working; keep what works, reevaluate what isn't working Communication is key- asking what's not working and working together to fix it

6	<p>Have you served on any Boards, Commissions or Committees (not only County B&Cs – but also church groups, non-profit boards, school committees, etc.) within the last five years? What do you think was your greatest contribution during your tenure?</p> <p>Served on nonprofit board in communication chair capacity Throwing fundraisers, getting people to attend events/buy tickets Served for 2 years, sold out every event she was in charge of (strictly using digital communication)</p>
7	<p>Are you familiar with the County Charter and County Code as they apply to the Board you are applying for?</p> <p>Vaguely</p>
8	<p>Are you willing to take the time to attend training sessions to become more knowledgeable about your duties and responsibilities in an advisory capacity?</p> <p>Absolutely</p>
9	<p>Are you aware that, as a member of a Los Alamos County Board or Commission, your written communications, including e-mails, are public records (even if produced on your personal computer), and as such are subject to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If any of these public records are requested for review/inspection under the Act you may need to produce them. Is this a deterrent to your willingness to serve on this Board?</p>
10	<p>Currently, a few boards or commissions are “live streaming” their meetings (for example, the T-Board, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.) In the future, this may be required of all boards. If you’re applying for one of the boards currently streaming or if it becomes a requirement for all B&Cs to stream, is this - or will this - be a deterrent to your willingness to serve?</p> <p>Above question: No (type-in box not working) This question: No</p>
11	<p><i>[Interview panel: Ask questions you think necessary for clarification of the written answers this applicant provided as part of their application.]</i></p> <p>Any subcommittee that you would find more interesting? Open space and aquatic center</p>
12	<p>Do you have any questions for the interview panel?</p> <p>What is the biggest project/priority presently?—Projects are all kind of even, biggest problem is getting the staff the support they need to get them done; so many things circle for so long that projects die off; people think it’s not useful to come to PRB What does a successful board member on this commission look like?</p>

Notes: