



## Application for Park Commission Appointment

Please return to City Clerk's Office - Thank You for your interest in the Lake Elmo Park Commission

Date: 09/27/2013

Name: Mary L Frick

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Resume Attached (Optional): Yes ☐ No ☒

Will provide if desired.

**1. Why are you interested in serving on the Lake Elmo Parks Commission? What personal interests and expertise will you bring?**

I view serving on the Lake Elmo Parks Commission as a way to give back to the community and to our parks. I place tremendous value in our parks and have used them extensively all year round for many years. My involvement is cross-generational, as my children have used the parks for outdoor recreation and sports activities. I know the parks don't exist without considerable work. I'm an outdoors advocate and have an advanced degree in Ecology. I'm very familiar with our surrounding County and State Parks and I'm knowledgeable of their strengths and useage. I bring business savy and knowledge, having had an extensive career in business.

**2. How will those skills and interests be of service to the development and management of the city's parks, trails and natural areas?**

Being routinely in the parks, I've first hand knowledge of their condition; how the parks are being used, by whom and how frequent. This provides insight on how to improve and optimally maintain these areas. As an outdoor's advocate and trained in ecology, I'm vested in developing and maintaining our natural areas. I'm able to assist in how the trails are developed and used, as I'm on them all year long; either walking, running, snow shoeing or cross-country skiing. My long time in business has taught me the value of good communication and working well with individuals and teams. I'm skilled in developing departments and organizations and well versed in budgets. Through my work, I'm adept at dealing with government regulations, which may bring value in dealing with park policies.

**3. What do you see as the role and function of the Parks Commission? How does this relate to the role and responsibility of the City Council in Park matters?**

The Commission should strategically plan, direct and oversee the development and maintenance of our parks, so that our citizens and future generations may be provided optimal use and enjoyment of our parks. The Commission should actively seek input from the community on interests and desires regarding our parks, analyze community needs and come to consensus on how best to develop and maintain our parks. The Commission should prioritize park needs and work within budget limits. The Commission should serve to advise and direct the City Council on park matters and provide assistance if conflicts occur.

**4. What value do parks and trails have to our citizens? What role or function do they provide?**

Studies have shown the mental and physical health benefits of spending time outdoors. Our parks and trails provide our citizens an opportunity to be exposed to the natural environment and their benefits. There is a vast array of opportunities to enjoy our parks. With our theater of seasons, there is much to do and can be provided to our citizens. The trails provide many varied physical activities whether it be a walk, a jog, horseback riding or skiing or snow shoeing in the winter. Socially, there might be a picnic or games played in the parks. There our game fields for competitive sports. For the young and old, there is much to see and do outdoors. It might be orienteering, fishing, swimming or canoeing. There is the opportunity to observe nature and to take in it's many wonders, perhaps bird watch or to photograph nature.

**5. How much time do you have or are you willing to devote to Parks Commission activities?**

I could provide as much as 4 to 8 hours a week. I've recently become semi-retired, and now work as a part-time consultant in a medical field.