

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: July 1, 2024

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Appointments to Park Commission and Pool Bond Oversight Committee

RECOMMENDATION

- Make appointment to the Park Commission for a term ending March 31, 2027.
- Make appointment to the Community Pool Bond Oversight Committee.

BACKGROUND

The City Council conducted interviews for vacancies on all City of Piedmont Commissions and Committees at a special meeting on March 23, 2024, and made appointments to open seats that existed at the time. Overall, the quality of the candidate pool was strong and the number of candidates exceeded the number of vacancies. Since the March meeting, Park Commissioner Sharon Shoshani and Pool Bond Oversight Committee Member Dirk ten Grotenhuis resigned their positions, creating vacancies on each body. Applications submitted as part of the 2024 recruitment for the Park Commission are now presented for consideration of appointment to the vacancy created by the resignation of Commissioner Sharon Shoshani. . Given the approximate subject matter of the budget to financing instruments, staff recommends revisiting the Budget Advisory & Financial Planning Committee applicant pool to address the vacancy due to Committee Member Dirk ten Grotenhuis' resignation.

All candidates advanced for the Council's consideration have been contacted to confirm ongoing interest in community service.

By: Anna M. Brown, City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Applications under consideration for Park Commission
- B. Applications under consideration for Pool Bond Oversight Committee

City of Piedmont

Submit Date: Mar 11, 2024

Application for Appointive Vacancy

Profile

Shanna

First Name

Wagnor

Last Name

sewagnor

Email Address

Home Address

Piedmont

City

State/Zip

CA

State

94611

Postcode

Home:

Day Phone

Education

MBA: UC Berkeley, BA: UC Davis

Tech marketing

Occupation

Application

Please select the commissions and/or committees you wish to apply for. .

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Park Commission: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Experience related to this appointment

As a resident with a young child and a dog, I am a frequent visitor of all Piedmont parks. Relatedly, I have worked with various non profits before, organizing events and volunteers to unite around a common goal (fun runs, fundraisers, dog rescues, clean up days, etc) and would be excited to contribute to my local community.

Why are you seeking this appointment?

I'm looking to get more involved in the community and given my interest and daily visits to the parks, thought this would be the perfect introduction to committee work.

What particular talents will you bring to this commission/committee?

I have years of marketing experience I can bring to the role, which comes along with strong communication, content creation, project management, relationship building and collaboration.

Have you attended a meeting of this commission/committee in person or virtually? *

☒ No

Watched on KCOM? *

☒ No

Watched on Streaming Video? *

☒ No

Certifications

Applications for the current vacancies must be received by the City Clerk's office **no later than Friday, March 15th, at 5:00 P. M.**

Interviews with the City Council will be scheduled for the evening of **Monday, March 25, 2024. Appointments will not be made without a Council interview.**

I will be available for an interview with the City Council on the evening of Monday, March 25.

☒ Yes ☐ No

I agree that the above information is truthful to the best of my knowledge and is submitted by myself on my own behalf.

☒ Yes ☐ No

E-Signature:

Shanna Wagnor

City of Piedmont

Submit Date: Mar 14, 2024

Application for Appointive Vacancy

Profile

Thomas

First Name

R

Middle Name

Gandesbery

Last Name

tomgandesbery2

Email Address

Home Address

State and Zip

PIEDMONT

City

CA

State

94611

Post Office Code

Home:

Day Phone

Education

BA, Marine Biology, UC Santa Barbara

Retired. Former project manager, environmental conservation

Occupation

Application

Please select the commissions and/or committees you wish to apply for. .

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Park Commission: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Experience related to this appointment

I recently retired from the State Coastal Conservancy where I managed a wildfire resilience grant program and was the project manager for a river floodplain restoration project (Carmel River, Rancho Canada) within a park owned and managed by a small park district. Previously I managed design and construction of the 750-acre Hamilton salt marsh restoration project in Marin County, as well as, managed grants for numerous restoration, public access and land conservation projects. Previous to that work, I was with the SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board where I managed permits related to dredging and contaminated sediment. My time there also included working in the watershed division on creek restoration and other water quality issues in Napa County and groundwater remediation in Alameda County. Over the last decade, I have also been doing volunteer trail building and maintenance with the Bicycle Trails Council East Bay where my focus has been in Joaquin Miller Park in the Oakland Hills. In that capacity, I have organized volunteer events for both adults and youth.

Why are you seeking this appointment?

I would like to use my experience and knowledge to support the local community. I am particularly interested in involving our youth, middle and high-school students, in on-the-ground stewardship and tangible work in our parks and open spaces. What people learn and gain from our parks can positively influence their lives in numerous ways. In the twenty-two years I have been a resident here, I have seen how the Piedmont community can come together to do great things and I hope to unleash that interest and pent-up energy to make our great parks even better.

What particular talents will you bring to this commission/committee?

In Joaquin Miller Park, I have organized volunteer events for adults and youth. In that work and from my experience with the Coastal Conservancy I have come to understand both the potential and pitfalls of using volunteers, as compared to conservation corps members, contractors, and government staff. I have worked with numerous state and federal agencies and understand the potential and limitations of our environmental regulatory framework. I have experience and can appreciate the constraints of a small city and its government.

Have you attended a meeting of this commission/committee in person or virtually? *

☒ Yes

Watched on KCOM? *

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Watched on Streaming Video? *

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☒ Yes ☐ No

E-Signature:

Thomas R Gandesbery

City of Piedmont

Submit Date: Mar 15, 2024

Application for Appointive Vacancy

Profile

William

First Name

B

Middle Name

Deitch

Last Name

william.deitch

Email Address

Home Address

Suite / Apt

Piedmont

City

CA

State

94610

Postcode

Home:

Day / Eve

Education

BA, Yale University; MBA, Stanford University

Investor (venture capital
and private equity)

Occupation

Application

Please select the commissions and/or committees you wish to apply for. .

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Budget Advisory & Financial Planning Committee: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Experience related to this appointment

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: I have nearly two decades of finance industry experience spanning venture capital, private equity, and investment banking, providing me with year of training in financial management, budgeting, and strategic planning. I have a robust understanding of financial instruments, financial statements, and how to assess the risks and viability of financial forecasts. BOARD EXPERIENCE: I have served on the boards of 18 private companies in director and/or observer roles. As a fiduciary duty to several stakeholders, I've advised and pressure tested management teams on short and long-term financial forecasts and been responsible for adequately managing the capital requirements for these businesses. In several cases, I have also served on the Finance & Audit subcommittees of these boards. COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE: In addition to my corporate roles, I have actively contributed to non-profit organizations, serving on boards and committees. EDUCATION: I hold a bachelor's degree from Yale University and an MBA from Stanford University, where I also earned a Certificate in Public Management (a specific curriculum focused on connecting business skills to the public sector, training highly relevant to his role).

Why are you seeking this appointment?

I moved to Piedmont in 2022 and over the past two years, I have come to love and deeply appreciate our town. As with any community I am a part of, I find myself asking, "How can I help to make a difference?" I have a strong desire to play whatever role I can in supporting Piedmont, and the Budget Advisory & Financial Planning Committee feels like a great opportunity for me to bring my specific experiences to bear. In addition, I've always had a deep interest in the role local government can play in people's lives and I'm eager to learn more about how Piedmont operates. I have a genuine curiosity about the work of the committee and our city government as a whole. I recently spoke with former committee member, Deb Leland, who walked me through the history of the committee and all the work it has done to help bring stability to the city's finances. As Piedmont continues to grow and evolve, it is sure to face more big questions and challenges and I would be excited to play any part I can in navigating the road ahead.

What particular talents will you bring to this commission/committee?

I combine business rigor and financial literacy with a liberal arts mentality. In that vein, I pride myself on my ability to see the big picture while also dig into the small details. This has been a hallmark of my work as an investor and board member. More than anything else, I commit to bringing energy and enthusiasm to the committee, and a deep desire to learn and work alongside my fellow committee members.

Have you attended a meeting of this commission/committee in person or virtually? *

☒ No

Watched on KCOM? *

☒ No

Watched on Streaming Video? *

☒ No

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☒ Yes ☐ No

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☒ Yes ☐ No

E-Signature:

William Deitch

William B Deitch

City of Piedmont

Submit Date: Feb 27, 2024

Application for Appointive Vacancy

Profile

Richard

First Name

Wang

Last Name

dickwang

Email Address

Home Address

Suite / Apt

Piedmont

City

CA

State

94611

Post Office Code

Mobile:

Day / Office

Education

Stanford GSB MBA, University of Chicago BA Economics

Co-Founder, Managing
Partner Tenzing Global
Investors

Occupation

Application

Please select the commissions and/or committees you wish to apply for. .

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Budget Advisory & Financial Planning Committee: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Experience related to this appointment

I am the Co-Founder and Managing Partner at Tenzing Global Management, focusing on long-term investments in the technology and consumer sectors. My role involves collaborating with key stakeholders to drive alignment and long-term value, underpinned by a strong foundation in budgeting, financial planning, and capital allocation. This experience is complemented by my service on the audit and strategic finance committees for a publicly traded company that assisted in a successful corporate transformation. In addition to my career in institutional investing, I serve as an adjunct professor in managerial accounting at Northeastern University--Mills College and guest lecturer in finance and general management at Stanford GSB and UC Berkeley Haas. I hope my experience in finance and general management spanning over two decades will help the committee review city budget projections and ensure fiscal responsibility.

Why are you seeking this appointment?

Since becoming a Piedmont resident in 2016, my family and I have deeply invested in the community's welfare. Alongside my wife, Bonnie, I am dedicated to creating a nurturing, vibrant, and safe environment for our twin boys and dogs. I hold a strong belief that fiscal responsibility is crucial for preserving Piedmont's unique charm and supporting its exceptional schools, community resources, and public safety. With over two decades of experience in finance and general management, I am eager to apply my expertise to the Budget Advisory & Financial Planning Committee, ensuring Piedmont continues to thrive for all families and future generations.

What particular talents will you bring to this commission/committee?

I bring a solid foundation in investment management and financial oversight, with a specialized focus on strategic financial planning and risk management. My expertise in analyzing and optimizing budgets is directly aligned with the committee's mission to ensure fiscal responsibility and sustainable financial planning for Piedmont. Through my board service and academic roles, I've developed a nuanced understanding of collaborative decision-making and fiscal stewardship, which I am eager to bring to the committee. I am committed to leveraging my analytical skills and deep financial knowledge to support the committee's efforts in maintaining and enhancing the city's financial health, ensuring a thriving future for all residents. Please note, I was drawn to the committee's vital work after reading an article in the East Bay Times. While I have not yet had the opportunity to attend the committee meetings in person or virtually, I have diligently reviewed the minutes from the meetings to familiarize myself with its proceedings and priorities.

Have you attended a meeting of this commission/committee in person or virtually? *

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☒ Yes ☐ No

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☒ Yes ☐ No

City of Piedmont

Submit Date: Mar 13, 2024

Application for Appointive Vacancy

Profile

Alistair

First Name

Thornton

Last Name

thorntonalistair

Email Address

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Piedmont

City

CA

State

94611

Post Office Code

Home:

Day Phone

Education

University of Edinburgh, Philosophy. Stanford University, MBA.

Director, Product
Management - Meta

Occupation

Application

Please select the commissions and/or committees you wish to apply for. .

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Budget Advisory & Financial Planning Committee: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Experience related to this appointment

I am a product owner at Meta (I lead our business AI efforts) and have financial/budgetary ownership, working with our Finance team to forecast and track our business line. Prior to Meta, I worked as an investment analyst at a hedge fund, doing financial modeling. I also have a MBA from Stanford, but it's likely I've forgotten a lot of that course material :)

Why are you seeking this appointment?

As a relatively new Piedmont resident (we moved to Requa Rd in Oct 2022), a parent of kids in the school system (well, I have a kindergartener at Wildwood and a 3yr old who'll be at Wildwood soon enough!), and someone who likes to be actively engaged with CA state political issues, I'm looking for a way to contribute to Piedmont's wonderful community. I think I could be useful and so this is me trying to dip my toe into things.

What particular talents will you bring to this commission/committee?

I like to think that I bring structured problem solving, strong communication/alignment skills, and some good humor into organizations. Those have been the themes of my professional career to-date (I'm 40yrs old, so perhaps we'd say I'm mid career?).

Have you attended a meeting of this commission/committee in person or virtually? *

☒ No

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☒ No

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☒ Yes ☐ No

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☒ Yes ☐ No

E-Signature:

Alistair Thornton