



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Consent Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: August 18, 2025

Prepared By: Mayor Lilija Stevens

Agenda Item: Appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission and the Tree Board

Explanation: The Historic Preservation Commission consists of seven positions. Currently there are three (3) vacancies due to terms that had expired. I appoint Washington residents Jennifer Essig, John Edward Norlin and Adam Rankins. With these appointments, the Historic Preservation Commission will be complete with seven (7) members.

Jennifer Essig has served on numerous boards and committees and understands the responsibilities involved. She has an interest and a good knowledge of Washington's history, being a long time resident and descendent of William Holland. Jennifer will do what she can to help preserve the integrity of Washington's Historical image and the preservation of its buildings.

John Edward Norlin's interest in being a member of the Historical Preservation Commission stems from being a life long Washington resident and Church Council Chairman at historic Calvary Community Church, part of the Washington community since 1866.

Adam Rankins is a newcomer to Washington, being part of our community a little over a year. He and his family live just under two blocks from the Square. Adam is surrounded by the beauty and history of Washington every day and would like to be a part of preserving that. The biggest qualification Adam can bring to the HPC would be a fresh set of eyes and a desire to serve the community.

The Tree Board consists of a minimum of five (5) members who shall be residents or employees of the City. Currently all five (5) positions are open with three expired terms and two vacant positions. Washington has a designation of being a Tree City. The Tree Board shall be responsible for making recommendations to the City Council for all regulations concerning trees on public property along with establishing educational and informational programs. I appoint Katie Beale, Lisa Sherman, Brian Tibbs and Randey Wall. With these appointments, one (1) position remains on the Tree Board.

Growing up, Katie Beale's family always talked about the importance of trees. When properly planted and maintained, trees can help reduce traffic speed, temperature, and storm water run off. Trees are what makes a park or community area special. Katie is an avid gardener with an interest in native species. A functioning board is important in the grant writing process for future projects and Katie is pleased to see interest in maintaining the Tree Board going forward.

Lisa Sherman would like to be considered for the Tree Board to help be a part of Washington for decades to come. She is a Girl Scout leader and tries to take her scouts and family out hiking and camping frequently. One of the things Lisa admires most about the outdoors are the trees and what they provide for us and their beauty. Lisa would like more trees planted in areas that were hit by the tornado and expand in newer developments.

Brian Tibbs, Washington resident, serves as the Executive Director of the Washington Park District. Brian was one of the original appointees on the Tree Board when the Tree Board was first formed as required for a community to be recognized as a Tree City. Brian brings both educational, work experience and new ideas to the Tree Board.

Randey Wall is a retired professor, Horticulture - Illinois Central College with thirty-six (36) years experience. He supervised development of ICC Arboretum Conducts accreditation evaluation of Landscape Programs for the National Association of Landscape Professionals. Randey brings both professional experience and personal interest in his desire to be appointed on the Tree Board.

Fiscal Impact: These Board and Commission positions are volunteer service positions which do not have expenses directly associated with particular appointments other than potential expenses of the Board or Commission themselves. I very much appreciate the willingness of our residents to serve the City of Washington.

Action Requested: City Council approval of the appointments listed in this memo.