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**Parks & Environmental Commission Application - Submission #3704**

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Date Submitted: 1/10/2022

All applicants are required to be a resident of St. Anthony Village.

Date Received

mm/dd/yyyy

Name\*

Justin Reeder

Home Address\*

2913 30th Avenue NE

Zip Code\*

55418

Phone Number\*

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Email Address\*

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Please select which commission you are applying for.\*

Parks & Environmental

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In order for the Mayor and Council members to have a better understanding of your background and interests, please provide the following information.

**Why do you want to serve on a St. Anthony Village Commission?\***

My wife and I recently moved to Saint Anthony Village and I have been looking for an opportunity to get more involved in the community. I feel like this is a great opportunity I'd like to pursue since parks and environmental work has always been a stable part of my life.

As a child, I always felt most at home at my local parks. I could be found exploring the trails and creeks or playing a pick-up game of basketball with friends. Additionally, the local parks in my hometown always provided affordable options for me to learn, grow, and spend time with children my own age. I truly feel the spaces, events, and classes held at my local parks helped me grow into the adult I am today. Now, I would like to pass on similar opportunities for today's youth.

Throughout college, I made it a mission to further spread the value of being in nature and living a more environmentally sustainable life. I worked for a Big Brother's Big Sister's camp called Camp Oty' Okwa for roughly 5 years. Most of our work was with children in Columbus; many of which had never spent a significant amount of time in nature. I led classes in botany, geology, astronomy, and survival skills in addition to leading overnight campouts. Teaching children and teenagers about the value and importance of our natural world was truly one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

In addition to my personal experiences, I feel like many of my professional skills would be of great benefit to the commission. As a professional statistician with degrees in Psychology (BA and MS) and a BA in Mathematics, I can process complex or scientifically technical reports and information. Additionally, I have skills in teaching difficult concepts in accessible ways to others that may not have the same background as me. Overall, I pride myself in my emotional intelligence, my ability to work with others to create detailed plans, and then find actionable steps to help more projects forward.

If selected, I will approach being on the committee as a chance to learn and grow from those more experienced while doing my best to contribute a more sustainable future. I feel one of the best ways to build this future is get more people outdoors in a way that interests them. For example, hold an outdoor concert for the music lovers, an art class for the creative, or simply a meditative walk for those seeking a little more peace in their life. I feel like Silver Lake Park does an excellent job at providing these kinds of events. However, there's always a chance to do even more. I look forward to an opportunity to develop further ideas and resources to benefit the Saint Anthony community while building habits towards a better future.

Thank you for your time and best of luck in your search!

**Please list your prior experience serving on a Board, Commission, etc.\***

In college, I worked as the philanthropy chair for the educational fraternity Kappa Delta Pi. However, this would be my first governmental experience on a board/commission.