



Snohomish County

Conservation and Natural Resources

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TO: Council Chair Jared Mead

FROM: County Executive Dave Somers

RE: Snohomish County Parks Advisory Board Appointment:
Jay Downing, District 1 Board Member

DATE: August 09, 2023

Dave Somers
County Executive

Recommendation

I am pleased to recommend Jay Downing from Arlington, for the Snohomish County Parks Advisory Board to fill the recently vacant District 1 position.

Background

Jay Downing will be assuming the remainder of a term recently vacated by Kirahy Meyers and his first term would begin September 1, 2023, and expire January 1, 2027. He will be eligible to serve 2 additional four-year terms. A board member may serve on up to 2 boards or commissions as well as 1 ad hoc or advisory committee at a time. The process for appointment, terms and restrictions are codified in SCC 4.14 and SCC 2.03.030, SCC 2.03.050, and SCC 2.03.060.

Selection Criteria

Several criteria are used to evaluate potential nominations for a position on the Parks Advisory Board. Those criteria include:

- Community experience
- Working with or membership in one or more community-based non-profit groups
- Experience with a public agency operating public parks
- Participation in Snohomish County Parks, including the Evergreen State Fairgrounds
- History of volunteerism
- Experience in marketing and promotion of parks
- Extra skill that can be applied to assisting parks administration

Parks Advisory Board Nominee

Nominee background, application and other information is included in this packet. I would like to feature some of the information that was submitted that encouraged my selection of this nominee.

Mr. Downing has been a resident of Snohomish County for 35 years and has worked for the City of Arlington for 20 years, currently serving as the Maintenance & Operations Manager for the City. Mr. Downing has experienced the scope and the challenges associated with successfully developing, maintaining, and improving the City of Arlington's park system, as well as the other systems such as Streets, Airport, Facilities, Cemetery, Storm Water, and Utilities, and has insights into how they are all connected. He has experience in budgeting, project planning and management, procurement, contracts and bidding, and programs and events coordination.

Mr. Downing has volunteered for numerous community organizations including:

- Stilly Valley Chamber of Commerce: 2016 – Present
- North County Economic Recovery Advisory Board: 2020 – 2021
- Arlington Farmer's Market: 2021 – Present
- Stilly Valley Little League Assistant Coach/Coach: 2021 – 2022
- Arlington Community Food Bank: 2018 – Present
- Arlington Community Food Bank: Annual Farm to Table dinner auction planning committee: 2022 – Present
- Trail maintenance - Pilchuck Tree Farm: 2021 - Present

We believe his experience and perspective will be a significant asset to the Parks Advisory Board.

Conclusion

Pursuant to SCC 2.03.030, I am pleased to recommend the above appointment to fill the current vacancy as a representative member on the Snohomish County Parks Advisory Board. Thank you for your attention and consideration.