

2013 PLANNING COMMISSIONER BIOS

PAT CONNOLLY – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2010 – current term expires 2016

2464 Como Avenue, Saint Paul 55108

Ward 4 District Council 12

Pat Connolly moved to St. Paul in 1999 after graduate school at UW-Madison where he earned a Master of Science in Real Estate and Urban Land Economics and another M.S. in Land Resources. His B.S. in Geography and Urban Studies came from the University of Minnesota, and he grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota. Pat has lived in St. Anthony Park since 2005, but also still owns investment property in Macalester-Groveland. He is the Housing Development Director for LSS of Minnesota, but has also had career chapters at Welsh Companies and CommonBond Communities. Pat teaches in the Urban Studies department at the U of M, pursues a wedding photography avocation, and adores his daughter. Pat tries to bring to the Commission a respect for a variety of points of view, common sense and openness to change and growth.

DAN EDGERTON – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2012 – current term expires 2015

1157 Como Blvd. West, Saint Paul: 55103

Ward 5 District Council 6

Dan Edgerton leads the Water and Natural Resources Team in the Saint Paul office of Stantec, a consulting engineering and planning firm. The focus of his work is infrastructure planning and sustainable stormwater management. Dan received his B.S. and M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He and his family have lived in the Como Park neighborhood for the past 24 years.

GENE GELGELU – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2010 – current term expires 2016

1955 University Avenue W, Ste 210, Saint Paul 55117

Ward 5 District Council 6

Gene Gelgelu has lived in Saint Paul for more than ten years. He is executive director for African Economic Development Solutions, a nonprofit organization that serve African immigrant and refugee communities in Twin Cities and Metropolitan area. He holds a Bachelors degree in finance from Metropolitan States University in Minnesota and Master of Business Administration in finance from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He has worked with both for profit and nonprofit organizations at a leadership capacity and built diverse experiences. Mr. Gelgelu has a special interest in community development.

WILLIAM LINDEKE – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2012 – current term expires 2015

1033 Western Avenue, Saint Paul: 55117

Ward 5 District Council 6

Bill Lindeke is a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota Department of Geography, working on bicycle transportation, urban planning, and public space. He has taught classes on the history of public space in US cities, global cities, and biogeography. He works with Streets.mn (a local planning and urbanism website), Civic/Media-Minnesota (a local public affairs media organization), and KFAI radio.

Bill has an avid interest in jazz and baroque music and baseball ritual, and is the sole proprietor of the Twin City Sidewalks website, named one of the Twin Cities' top 11 blogs by WCCO. He was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Mendota Heights. He has lived in St. Paul's North End since 2004.

KYLE MAKARIOS – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2013 – current term expires 2016

851 Dayton Avenue, Saint Paul, 55104

Ward 1 District Council 8

Kyle Makarios is the Director of Government Affairs for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters. A resident of Saint Paul since 1995, Kyle graduated from Macalester College with a bachelor's degree in History. He currently is active in a number of community organizations including as the secretary/treasurer of the Minnesota Housing Partnership, a leaseholder of the Rondo Community Land Trust, and a member of the Dean's Advisory Council at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He and his wife Erin have two children.

PAULA MERRIGAN – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2010 – current term expires 2016

333 Washington Avenue N, Minneapolis 55401

Ward 3 District Council 14

Paula Merrigan, LEED AP and a Principal of DJR Architecture, Inc. When she moved back to Minnesota, she made a conscious choice to live in Saint Paul. She was attracted to the strength of its neighborhoods, its rich history, and the character of its built environment, its cultural diversity, and its relationship to the riverfront. Her professional experiences have equipped her to recognize the importance of planning in bringing together key components of the urban environment in order to stimulate revitalization, strengthen neighborhoods, and offer diverse opportunities to live, work, and play.

She is an Alumna Fellow with the Mondale Policy Forum of the Humphrey Institute where she did research on housing and public policy. After years of presenting development projects to public agencies, and planning commissions she felt well prepared to sit on the other side of the table. She embraces this chance to give something back to the city whose quality of life she so values.

GAIUS NELSON – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2006 – current term expires 2015

206 Wheeler Street S, Saint Paul 55105-1927

Ward 3 District Council 14

Gaius Nelson is a long time resident of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood where he lives with his wife and daughter. He has been active in neighborhood issues since the early 1980's, serving as president of the community council, chair of its housing & land use committee and as the Macalester-Groveland community council representative on several city-wide planning task groups.

As a nationally recognized architect focused on the design of Environments for Aging and special needs populations, Mr. Nelson and his firm, Nelson-Tremain Partnership, pioneered the household model for design of non-institutional, person-centered, care and living environments. The Shaller Family Sholom East Campus at Victoria Park in Saint Paul's West End is a high density urban example of his work.

Mr. Nelson also serves on national committees charged with the creation and updating of Codes and Guidelines for the design and construction of health care facilities.

His family enjoys travel, international cuisine, and are dedicated boosters of the Saint Paul Stars Synchronized Swim Team.

REBECCA NOECKER – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2012 – current term expires 2015

1522 Portland Avenue, #311, Saint Paul: 55104

Ward 1 District Council 1

Rebecca Noecker grew up in St. Louis Park and earned her bachelor's degree in Social Studies from Harvard College. After graduation, Rebecca taught with Teach For America in Baton Rouge and then worked as an education program officer at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. In 2009, she moved to India to work with Teach For India and returned to settle in Saint Paul in 2011. Rebecca now manages business and non-profit partnerships at Achieve Mpls, a non-profit organization that supports the Minneapolis Public Schools. She looks forward to helping preserve and enhance the local vitality of Saint Paul in her first term on the Planning Commission.

CHRISTOPHER OCHS – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2014

850 Dayton Avenue, Saint Paul 55104

Ward 1 District Council 8

Christopher Ochs is a twenty-one year resident of Ward 1 Saint Paul where he and his wife are raising their young family of four children. He is an award-winning landscape designer with Windsor Companies; holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Design, two Master degrees from the University of Minnesota in Landscape Architecture and Urban & Regional Planning; and has served the Dist 8 Planning Council, Selby Area CDC, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. Chris is well traveled and draws a considerable amount of geographical and cultural experiences from visiting or residing in bustling cities and rural villages across the globe. He hopes his experience and sense of community will contribute to the well-being of the City of Saint Paul.

TREVOR OLIVER – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2014

2021 Margaret Street, Saint Paul 55119

Ward 7 District Council 1

Trevor Oliver is an attorney at the law firm of Kelly & Lemmons in Saint Paul. His law practice focuses on municipal law and land use law, and has been recognized in 2010 and 2011 as a Minnesota "Rising Star" in those fields. Trevor received a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and obtained his law degree from the University of Minnesota. He lives on St. Paul's Eastside with his wife and three children.

JULIE PERRUS – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2014

7900 Xerxes Avenue S, Ste 1500 Minneapolis 55431

Ward 4 District Council 10

Julie Perrus, LEED AP, is a regulatory and land use attorney with Larkin Hoffman Attorneys. She holds a BS in Biology from Winona State University and her JD from William Mitchell College of Law. Julie is on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Land Trust and is actively involved in the Minnesota Chapter of the US Green Building Council. She lives in the Como Park neighborhood with her family and appreciates the spirit of community and civic participation fostered in St. Paul.

MARILYN PORTER – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2004 – current term expires 2014

1247 Maywood Street, Saint Paul 55117-4133

Ward 5 District Council 10

Marilyn Porter is a seasoned professional with over fifteen years of leadership and project management skills. Her expertise includes leading teams of specialists (architects, engineers and contractors), the ability to manage physical plant and building infrastructure, knowledge of government policy, procedure and practices in labor laws and government purchasing procedures. She has proven talents in her ability to effectively communicate with various stakeholders such as community/interest groups, government officials, contractors and building inspectors.

Her formal education and certifications include a BS in Architectural Studies and a MS in Management Technology with a concentration in Construction Management; she is also a Certified Plant Engineer, (AFE). Ms. Porter has completed coursework/training programs in Capital Budgeting for Facility Managers, Commercial Real Estate Specialist Program, University of St. Thomas, and the Mini Master of Project Management, University of St. Thomas.

Ms. Porter has a commitment to community engagement and support currently serving on the St. Paul Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning appeals, Saint Paul Public Art organization, YMCA Board member, and former Catholic Charities Board of Directors.

ELIZABETH (Betsy) REVEAL – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2014

225 9th Street E, Unit 303, Saint Paul 55101

Ward 2 District Council 17

Betsy Reveal returned to St. Paul in 2009, after working in various American cities and abroad. She served as the chief budget officer, chief financial officer, or chief operating officer in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, PA., Seattle, WA, and the Kennedy School at Harvard, Amtrak and the United Nations Foundations. For the past fifteen years she has maintained a national and international consulting practice. She served on the Planning Commission in Philadelphia and worked closely with Planning Departments and Commissions in Seattle and Washington. Betsy lives downtown in Wacouta Commons.

ANTHONY SCHERTLER – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2009 – current term expires 2014

380 Jackson Street, Ste 300, Saint Paul 55101-2887

Ward 3 District Council

Tony Schertler is a licensed attorney and leads the Housing and Economic Development Group for the public sector advisory firm Springsted Incorporated. For the past five years he has served local government clients in over 10 states in the Upper Midwest and Mid Atlantic regions. He worked 15 years for the City of St. Paul, 10 of those years for the department of Planning and Economic Development. He is a native of Washington D.C. a graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville Minnesota and received his J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. Tony lives in the Macalester/Groveland neighborhood with his wife and two children.

EMILY SHIVELY – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2012 – current term expires 2015

1284 Bush Avenue, Saint Paul: 55106

Ward 7 District Council 4

Emily Shively is a Landscape designer and planner holding Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Urban and Regional Planning degrees from the University of Minnesota. She is particularly interested in the intersection of design, planning and public policy and the importance of community engagement in sustaining vibrant places. She is a resident of Dayton's Bluff and served on the District 4 Community Council from 2005-2007. Emily also currently serves on the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission.

ROBERT SPAULDING – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2007 – current term expires 2014

66 East 9th Street, #1714, Saint Paul 55101

Ward 5 District Council 6

Bob Spaulding first became aware of the impact of urban planning decisions when I-394 was planned and built a block from his childhood home. As Executive Director of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, he closely watched the successful resolution around the much-debated expansion of the University of St. Thomas along Summit Avenue, and was inspired by the potential in community-based planning.

For the last dozen years he's lived in downtown St. Paul with his wife Becky, and now his young son Tate. He's served on the board of downtown's CapitolRiver District Council, and been part of the Riverfront Corporation Adjunct Team. He co-chaired a Planning Commission Task Force on the future of his Fitzgerald (aka Pedro) Park neighborhood on downtown St. Paul's northern perimeter.

Bob currently chairs the Commission's Transportation Committee. He holds a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning, and works at Friends of the Mississippi River in St. Paul.

TERRI THAO – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2015

570 Asbury Street, Ste. 207, St. Paul 55104

Ward 6 District Council 2

Terri Thao is a program officer at Nexus Community Partners, a community building intermediary where she covers the South Minneapolis area (ranging north-south from Franklin Avenue to 38th Street). Terri has lived in St. Paul for over 20 years and currently resides on the East Side with her family. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Russian and a Masters Degree in Public Policy, both obtained from the University of Minnesota. Terri is an active community volunteer and cites her interest to learn more about city processes as the reason for her service on the Planning Commission.

JUN-LI WANG – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2010 – current term expires 2015

308 Prince Street, Ste 270, Saint Paul 55101

Ward 4 District Council 11

Jun-Li Wang is a connector of people, places and ideas. As Artist Community Organizer at Springboard for the Arts, she creates and delivers programs that organize and empower artists, build reciprocal relationships between communities and their artists, and train artists to address community interests – locally, regionally and nationally. Jun-Li has extensive local and international experience in asset-based community development, neighborhood leadership, and training. Jun-Li worked in China for 5 years for several international non-profits including The Asia Foundation and Project HOPE before returning to obtain a MPS in International Development from Cornell University. Prior to joining Springboard, she has worked for Farm in the City, Hamline Midway Coalition, Intermedia Arts, and Public Art Saint Paul. On occasion, she sells her textile craft art in local stores. Jun-Li also manages Paint the Pavement and is active on the board of Urban Boatbuilders, a metro non-profit serving at-risk youth.

DANIEL WARD II – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2008 – current term expires 2014

1360 University Avenue W., Ste. 360, Saint Paul 55104

Ward 5 District Council 6

Daniel is the owner/principal licensed real estate broker for Capitol Realty Group, Inc. focusing on commercial sales, REO listings and sales, investment property sales and infill property development for emerging markets within the St. Paul/Minneapolis urban cores.

Daniel is also the owner of The Bethel Group, Inc. a design/build firm whose focus is working with private investors and non-profit groups engaged in neighborhood revitalization. Other experience has been in the capacity of project management, consulting/design, site acquisition, due diligence reports and third party inspections.

Daniel is the immediate past board president of SPARC; he serves on SPARC's Development and Housing committee's and is also a board member of District 6 Planning Council serving the North End and south Como neighborhoods.

BARBARA WENCL – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2007 – current term expires 2014

957 Oak View Ct, Saint Paul 55119

Ward 7 District Council 1

Barb Wencl is a retired Teacher/Librarian. As a teacher her communications skills are especially useful in meetings and she has the ability to mediate agreements. She is a past president of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, and previously served on the Planning Commission from 1988-1998, during which she chaired the Phalen Village Plan Task Force. She currently serves on the board of the North East Neighborhoods Development Corporation.

DAVID WICKISER – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2009 – current term expires 2014

354 Duke Street, Saint Paul 55102

Ward 2 District Council 9

David Wickiser is employed with New City Real Estate, Inc. His day to day skills and experience involves intense knowledge of complex financing, small and mid-sized development (commercial), and residential and commercial real estate transactions, as well as knowing issues facing small and mid-sized business. He brings to the table an understanding of development and zoning, along with the ramifications of decisions made.