

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – Residency Required

Authority: City Code, Chapter 20, Section 3-36 and 3-37

Members: 7

Duties: The commission is responsible for recommending planning and zoning policies governing land use in Peoria. It also reviews and recommends approval of zoning codes and annual revisions to the City’s Comprehensive Master Plan.

Liaison: Chris Jacques / Planning and Community Development

Vacant
Reappointment

CURRENT MEMBERS

Name	District	Special Criteria	Appointed	Reappt'd	Reappt'd	Reappt'd	Reappt'd	Expiration
Allsop, Clayton	Mesquite		12/06/2016	06/13/2017	10/06/2020			12/31/2024
Feiter, Anthony	Willow		08/13/2019	01/07/2020				12/31/2023
VACANT								6/30/2023
Nelson, Jeff	Acacia		03/04/2014	08/27/2014	10/03/2017	1/4/2022		12/31/2023
VACANT								12/31/2024
Villasenor, Layla	Willow		02/08/2023					6/30/2024
Waitman, Joysaphine	Pine		2/2/2021	02/08/2023				6/30/2024

CURRENT AND UPCOMING VACANCIES

Name	District	Special Criteria	Current Term Expiration	Alternate for Consideration	Future Term Expiration
VACANT (was Hutchinson, Shawn)			-	N/A	6/30/2025
VACANT (was Uptegraff, Robyn)			12/31/2024	N/A	12/31/2026

October 11, 2023 Initial Appointment Interviews:

- Bruno, Jeff
- Konkowski, Thomas
- Myers, Doug
- Phillip, Scott

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION INITIAL APPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS

Name	District	Qualification Summary
Bruno, Jeff	Willow	<p>Current Member of the Veterans Memorial Board</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in this role, because I believe I can be opened minded to differing positions, ability to listen to both sides & make an educated decision in the best interests of the City moving forward. I hope to gain a more broad scope of being involved in the future of Peoria, that best serve all the residents.</p> <p>Qualifications/Experience: I am recently retired from municipal government (Fire) in Illinois where I worked for 29 years. I was deeply involved in the my previous community, and now currently sit on the Veterans Memorial Board, and am a recent graduate of the Peoria Leadership Institute (PLI), I believe my experience in serving on many committee's & boards in the past can bring forward a heightened level of commitment.</p> <p>Characteristics of Productive Member: Fair Minded & Impartial, Ability to listen, No preconceived agenda, Transparent Communications</p> <p>Contentious Agenda Item or Citizen: While reality is, you cannot make everyone happy; you have to make difficult decisions that may not align with those of the public, but best serve the City as a whole. Communicating with them upfront, and explaining your decision has been the best approach thus far. Having the public's input is an important factor in the equation, however; at the end of the day, it's what's best fit for the City & future of Peoria that will drive the decision.</p> <p>Major Land Use/Planning Opportunities/Challenges: Potential expansion is one opportunity, and proper utilization of the open land that is aligned with the City's Master Plan must be taken into consideration.</p>
Konkowski, Thomas	Willow	<p>Interest: I am highly interested in serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission to actively contribute to the responsible and sustainable development of our community. While I may not have a formal background in urban planning, I bring a strong passion for creating well-designed and vibrant spaces. By serving on this Commission, I hope to learn and gain valuable experience in the intricacies of land use planning and development regulations. I am eager to study and review use permits, development plans, zoning code amendments, and the city's general plan to better understand their impact on our community. Through collaboration with fellow Commissioners, I aim to provide thoughtful insights and contribute to well-informed decision-making processes. I believe in the importance of striking a balance between preserving the character of our city and meeting the evolving needs of our residents. I am committed to actively engaging with community members, attending public hearings, and listening to their concerns and aspirations. By representing the interests of our residents, I hope to ensure that their voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process. Overall, my interest in serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission stems from a genuine desire to contribute to the betterment of our community. While I may not have a formal background in this field, I am eager to learn, collaborate, and actively participate in shaping the responsible and sustainable development of our city.</p> <p>Qualifications: Although I lack previous board experience, I bring a diverse range of skills and qualities that can greatly contribute to this Commission. With a strong work ethic, effective communication skills, and a dedication to responsible decision-making, I am well-equipped to fulfill the responsibilities of this role. While my exposure to the trades was limited to my early years, I have developed a broad understanding of various aspects of construction and development processes. This foundational knowledge allows me to analyze proposals with a critical eye and evaluate their compliance with regulations and standards. Furthermore, I am committed to ongoing learning and staying up to date with current planning and zoning trends. Attending relevant workshops and training opportunities, as well as familiarizing myself with applicable laws and regulations, will ensure that I can contribute effectively to the decision-making process. I approach this Commission's work with an open mind and a genuine willingness to listen to and consider diverse perspectives. Collaboration and respectful dialogue are key to making well-informed decisions that serve the best interests of our community. In summary, while I may not possess specific qualifications directly related to this Commission, I bring a combination of skills, dedication, and a commitment to responsible decision-making. I am confident that my diverse background and passion for community development will enable me to make a positive impact in this role.</p> <p>Characteristics of member: A productive member of this Commission should possess certain characteristics that contribute to effective decision-making, collaboration, and positive outcomes. Some of these characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise and Knowledge: A productive member should have a strong understanding of the relevant subject matter, whether it is urban planning, zoning regulations, or development processes. This expertise allows them to contribute informed insights and recommendations.

Name	District	Qualification Summary
Konkowski, Thomas (Continued from previous page)	Willow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical and Critical Thinking: Board or commission members should be able to analyze complex information, evaluate proposals, and think critically about the potential impacts and implications of their decisions. They should be able to consider multiple perspectives and weigh the pros and cons before arriving at well-reasoned conclusions. • Collaborative Approach: Productive members understand the value of collaboration and teamwork. They actively engage with other board members, stakeholders, and the community to gather input, share ideas, and work towards consensus. They are open to different viewpoints and strive to find common ground while respecting diverse perspectives. • Effective Communication: Clear and effective communication is essential for productive board or Commission members. They should be able to articulate their thoughts and ideas clearly, listen actively to others, and foster constructive dialogue. They should also be able to communicate complex information in a way that is understandable to the public. • Ethical Conduct: Upholding high ethical standards is crucial for Commission members. They should act with integrity, demonstrate transparency, and avoid conflicts of interest. Their decisions and actions should always prioritize the best interests of the community they serve. • Commitment and Preparedness: Productive members are committed to their roles and responsibilities. They attend meetings regularly, come prepared with relevant information, and actively engage in discussions. They take the time to review materials, ask insightful questions, and stay informed about current issues and trends. • Open-mindedness and Adaptability: A productive member is open-minded and willing to consider alternative ideas and approaches. They embrace change, adapt to new circumstances, and are receptive to innovative solutions. They recognize that community needs and dynamics evolve over time, and they are willing to adjust their perspectives accordingly. • Community Focus: Ultimately, productive members keep the best interests of the community at the forefront of their decision-making. They strive to create positive impacts, enhance the quality of life for residents, and promote sustainable and responsible development. By embodying these characteristics, Commission members can work together effectively, contribute meaningfully to discussions, and make informed decisions that benefit the community as a whole. <p>Contentious Agenda Item: As a board member, I recognize that contentious agenda items and upset citizens are a natural part of the decision-making process. In such situations, I believe it is essential to uphold my role with professionalism, integrity, and a commitment to fairness.</p> <p>First and foremost, I would approach these situations with an open mind and a willingness to actively listen to the concerns and perspectives of all individuals involved. I would strive to create an atmosphere of respect and understanding, allowing everyone to express their viewpoints. To reconcile potential conflicts, I would carefully consider the facts, data, and applicable regulations relevant to the agenda item at hand. It is important to base decisions on objective criteria and the best interests of the community as a whole. Transparency and effective communication are vital in addressing contentious issues. I would seek to provide clear explanations of the decision-making process and ensure that citizens have access to accurate information. Additionally, I would encourage public participation, allowing individuals to voice their opinions during public hearings and meetings. While it may not be possible to satisfy every individual or resolve every disagreement, I would strive to make informed and fair decisions that consider the diverse perspectives and interests of the community. It is crucial to maintain professionalism, treat all individuals with respect, and uphold the principles of good governance throughout the process. In summary, when faced with contentious agenda items and upset citizens, I would approach my role as a board member with open-mindedness, active listening, fairness, and a commitment to transparency. By considering all viewpoints, adhering to regulations, and fostering respectful dialogue, I aim to reconcile conflicts and make well-informed decisions that serve the best interests of our community.</p> <p>Opportunities and challenges: In the City of Peoria, there are several significant land use and planning opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Growth: One major opportunity is managing sustainable growth within the city. As the population continues to expand, it is important to plan for responsible and balanced development that promotes the well-being of all residents, preserves natural resources, and enhances the quality of life. • Revitalization of Existing Areas: Peoria may have opportunities for revitalizing existing areas, such as downtown or underutilized commercial zones. By encouraging mixed-use development, improving infrastructure, and promoting walkability, the city can create vibrant and thriving spaces that attract businesses, residents, and visitors.

Name	District	Qualification Summary
Konkowski, Thomas (Continued from previous page)	Willow	<p>Transportation Planning: Addressing transportation challenges and opportunities is crucial. This includes planning for efficient public transportation systems, improving connectivity, and promoting alternative modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. Creating a comprehensive transportation plan can help alleviate congestion, enhance mobility, and support sustainable growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Affordability: Peoria may face challenges related to housing affordability. As the cost of living rises, it is important to ensure a range of housing options that accommodate different income levels. Encouraging affordable housing development and exploring innovative housing solutions can help address this challenge and ensure a diverse and inclusive community. • Environmental Sustainability: Embracing environmental sustainability is both an opportunity and a challenge. Peoria can work towards reducing its carbon footprint, promoting renewable energy sources, preserving open spaces, and integrating green infrastructure. Balancing economic development with environmental conservation is crucial for long-term sustainability. • Community Engagement: Fostering community engagement and inclusivity in the planning process is essential. Encouraging participation from diverse community members, listening to their needs and concerns, and incorporating their input into decision-making can help create a more inclusive and responsive planning environment. • Economic Development: Peoria has opportunities for attracting new businesses, industries, and investments. By identifying key sectors for economic growth, promoting entrepreneurship, and creating a favorable business environment, the city can stimulate economic development and job creation. • Preserving Cultural Heritage: Recognizing and preserving the city's cultural heritage is important for maintaining a sense of identity and community pride. Protecting historic sites, promoting cultural events, and integrating cultural elements into development plans can enhance the city's character and attract visitors. <p>In summary, the major land use and planning opportunities in the City of Peoria include managing sustainable growth, revitalizing existing areas, addressing transportation challenges, ensuring housing affordability, embracing environmental sustainability, fostering community engagement, promoting economic development, and preserving cultural heritage. These opportunities must be balanced with challenges such as limited resources, changing demographics, and the need for effective coordination among stakeholders to achieve a prosperous and sustainable future for the city.</p>
Myers, Douglas	Willow	<p>Interest: I'm truly enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Peoria. The responsibility of studying proposals, recommending amendments, and ensuring the alignment of zoning regulations with the General Plan deeply resonates with my interest in urban development and community enhancement. Being part of this commission would allow me to actively contribute to shaping the city's physical landscape while considering its long-term vision. By participating in the review process for General Plan amendments, zoning changes, and conditional use permits, I hope to foster sustainable growth, balance economic development with environmental concerns, and promote a vibrant and harmonious community. Furthermore, I anticipate gaining valuable experience in analyzing complex proposals, collaborating with fellow commissioners, and making well-informed decisions that benefit both residents and businesses. This role aligns perfectly with my passion for urban planning and my desire to actively engage in the betterment of the city I call home.</p> <p>Qualifications: My unique blend of qualifications, training, and previous experience makes me well-suited to enhance the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Peoria in a significant way. Firstly, my current role as a Fire Captain for the City of Tempe has given me invaluable insights into community safety, emergency response, and urban planning considerations. This perspective allows me to assess development proposals from a safety and public welfare standpoint, ensuring that zoning decisions prioritize the well-being of residents. Additionally, my involvement in the labor and management team has refined my skills in collaboration, negotiation, and consensus-building. These skills are essential within the Commission, where effective communication and cooperation between stakeholders are crucial for balanced decision-making. My professional experience with locations, design and construction of fire stations, has allowed me to work closely with architects, city officials, and community stakeholders. Through this role, I've gained practical insights into the intricacies of navigating zoning codes, obtaining permits, and managing the various stages of development projects. This hands-on experience has honed my ability to evaluate proposals and consider their broader impacts on the community. My background in Business Management, coupled with prior experience in the commercial and residential lending industry, equips me with a strong understanding of economic factors that shape urban development. I can assess proposals with an eye toward their potential impact on local businesses, property values, and economic growth. Furthermore, my previous career experience has honed my analytical and problem-solving abilities. These skills are pivotal when evaluating zoning code amendments, conditional use permits, and</p>

Name	District	Qualification Summary
<p>Myers, Douglas</p> <p>(Continued from previous page)</p>	<p>Willow</p>	<p>other complex planning matters. I'm committed to community service, and my role as a Fire Captain has allowed me to work closely with residents, understanding their concerns and aspirations. This experience helps me advocate for development that aligns with the city's vision while respecting the needs of its citizens. In conclusion, my current position, labor-management involvement, business background, and community engagement experiences, alongside my dedication to safety and community well-being, uniquely position me to contribute effectively to the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Peoria. I'm excited to bring this diverse skill set to the table and help shape the city's growth in a positive and sustainable manner.</p> <p>Qualifications of a good member: A productive member of the Planning and Zoning Commission should possess the following characteristics: 1. Expertise: They should have a solid understanding of urban planning principles, zoning regulations, and land use policies, enabling them to make well-informed decisions that align with the city's development goals. 2. Analytical Skills: A productive member should be able to critically evaluate complex proposals, considering their potential impact on the community, environment, and local economy. 3. Collaboration: Effective collaboration with fellow commissioners, city officials, developers, residents, and stakeholders is crucial for balanced decision-making and fostering a positive working environment. 4. Communication: Clear communication skills are essential for explaining decisions, sharing insights, and engaging with the public. They should be able to convey technical information to non-experts. 5. Community Engagement: Being attuned to the needs, concerns, and aspirations of the community helps ensure that decisions reflect the best interests of residents and businesses. 6. Ethical Judgment: A productive member should uphold the highest ethical standards, making decisions that prioritize the public welfare over personal interests. 7. Adaptability: The planning landscape is constantly evolving. Members need to adapt to changing trends, new technologies, and emerging challenges to make relevant and effective decisions. 8. Attention to Detail: Zoning codes, development proposals, and legal documents require careful scrutiny. An eye for detail helps prevent oversights and ensures compliance. 9. Problem-Solving: Challenges and conflicts often arise. A productive member should be able to navigate these situations, seeking practical solutions that balance competing interests. 10. Long-Term Vision: Members should consider the long-term consequences of their decisions, aiming to contribute to the city's sustainable growth and development. 11. Open-Mindedness: Being receptive to diverse perspectives and new ideas fosters creativity and innovation within the commission. 12. Respect for Due Process: An understanding of the legal framework governing zoning and development processes ensures decisions are made within established guidelines. 13. Time Management: Commission members often have a busy schedule. Effective time management helps them stay organized and fulfill their responsibilities. Overall, a productive member of the Planning and Zoning Commission combines technical expertise with interpersonal skills, ethical considerations, and a commitment to the community's well-being, ultimately contributing to a dynamic and effective decision-making process.</p> <p>Contentious Agenda Item/Citizen: Given my experience as a current fire captain in the public safety sector and my role as a trustee of the labor management team, I approach the challenge of handling contentious agenda items and upset citizens with a balanced perspective and effective communication. Here's how I plan to reconcile this with my role as a board member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Peoria: 1. Prioritize Safety and Well-being: Drawing from my background in public safety, I understand the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful environment during meetings. I work to ensure that discussions remain civil and that emotions do not escalate to an unsafe level. 2. Active Listening and Empathy: My experience as a fire captain has honed my active listening skills and empathy. When citizens are upset, I listen attentively to their concerns, acknowledging their emotions and striving to understand their perspectives. 3. Effective Communication: As a trustee of the labor management team, I've learned the art of constructive communication. I apply this skill to address upset citizens by using clear and empathetic language, fostering open dialogue, and encouraging them to express their thoughts. 4. Conflict Resolution: With my experience in managing team dynamics and addressing labor-related issues, I approach contentious situations with conflict resolution skills. I seek common ground, propose compromises, and work towards finding solutions that accommodate various viewpoints. 5. Explain Regulations and Process: Leveraging my role as a board member, I explain zoning regulations, city policies, and the decision-making process to citizens. This helps manage expectations and provides context for the commission's decisions. 6. Transparency and Information: I draw upon my expertise to provide accurate and transparent information during discussions. This helps citizens understand the rationale behind decisions and fosters a sense of trust in the commission's work. 7. Enhance Community Vibrancy and Reduce the Need for Extensive Commuting: 2. Sustainability: Implementing eco-friendly practices such as green building standards, renewable energy integration, and improved public transportation can contribute to a more sustainable and livable city. 3. Revitalization of Urban Centers:</p>

Name	District	Qualification Summary
<p>Myers, Douglas</p> <p>(Continued from previous page)</p>	<p>Willow</p>	<p>7. Foster Collaboration: Utilizing my experience as a trustee, I encourage collaboration between citizens, stakeholders, and fellow board members. I emphasize the importance of working together to find solutions that benefit the community as a whole. 8. Maintain Composure: With my background in public safety, I remain composed under pressure. I handle tense situations with a calm demeanor, ensuring that emotions are managed and discussions remain focused. 9. Focus on Community Impact: Both my roles have instilled in me a deep sense of responsibility towards the well-being of the community. I prioritize decisions that contribute to the city's growth and welfare, even in the face of challenging situations. 10. Continual Learning: Lastly, I approach each experience as an opportunity for growth. I reflect on how I handled the situation, seek feedback, and continuously refine my approach to be a more effective board member.</p> <p>In essence, my experience as a fire captain and trustee equips me with the skills needed to navigate contentious agenda items and engage with upset citizens constructively. By leveraging my communication, conflict resolution, and community-focused skills, I strive to contribute positively to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Peoria.</p> <p>Planning Opportunities/Challenges: Here are a few opportunities and challenges that I believe the major land use and/or planning opportunities the City of Peoria is currently facing: Opportunities: 1. Mixed-Use Development: Creating mixed-use areas that combine residential, commercial, and recreational spaces can Repurposing underutilized areas within the city can stimulate economic growth and provide residents with accessible services, entertainment, and job opportunities. 4. Affordable Housing: Developing strategies to address affordable housing needs can make the city more inclusive and attractive to a diverse range of residents. Challenges: 1. Urban Sprawl: Uncontrolled expansion can strain infrastructure, increase traffic congestion, and reduce green spaces. Managing growth while maintaining quality of life is a challenge. 2. Traffic Congestion: With population growth, managing traffic flow and providing efficient transportation options becomes crucial to prevent congestion and maintain mobility. 3. Balancing Development and Preservation: Striking a balance between new development and preserving the city's natural landscapes, historical sites, and cultural heritage can be challenging. 4. Community Engagement: Ensuring that residents have a voice in planning decisions and are engaged in the development process is essential to creating a city that reflects the needs and desires of its residents. 5. Resilience to Climate Change: Planning for the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events and water shortages, requires incorporating resilience strategies into urban development. 6. Economic Diversity: Promoting a diverse economy can mitigate dependence on a single industry and enhance the city's resilience to economic fluctuations. 7. Infrastructure Upgrades: Aging infrastructure may require significant investment to support the growing population and ensure essential services are provided efficiently.</p>
<p>Phillips, Scott</p>	<p>Ironwood</p>	<p>Interest: Planning and Zoning is important not only from a review perspective but, in my view, from an overall policy perspective. I really do not hope to gain anything from the commission other than an opportunity to serve the community in which I have lived for over twenty years.</p> <p>Qualifications/Previous Experience: I have been a municipal planner in both California and Arizona (Surprise), am currently a real estate investor and developer throughout the West Valley (but not in Peoria), as well as a real estate broker and consultant. With over 24 years of experience in planning, design, development, community outreach, and many other facets of the development process, I believe I can be engaged at the right level to complement the city staff and city process. Characteristics of Productive Member: Review the material, arrive prepared to the meetings, ask good questions, and make the best decision available in accordance with the adopted city policies and laws. Contentious Agenda Item/Citizen: I have attended as well as hosted hundreds of public meetings. In many cases, these can be contentious and challenging. I have always ascribed to the idea that everyone is treated respectfully and there are many different reasons emotions are stirred relating to development. I am also a believer in the importance of private property rights and how public policy should be oriented towards the protection of those rights for all parties involved. Major Land Use/Planning Opportunities and Challenges: Peoria is in a position to take advantage of the tremendous employment opportunities moving west of I-17. the 303 corridor can be one of the strongest employment corridors in the western United States, and Peoria is fortunate to have some key pieces to take advantage of this opportunity. Quality of life, development, redevelopment, natural preservation, water resource management and other elements of good planning should all be considered as part of the long-term city strategy. The city of Peoria has been addressing these items within policy and planning documents, so the key is continuous assessment and evaluation.</p>

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD – Residency Requirement

Authority: City Code, Chapter 3, Sections 3-46 and 3-47

Members: 19 and 2 Alternates

Duties: This Board advises the City, through the City Manager on the development of public recreational and youth activities and programs in the city, plans and implements a Student Government Day, and reviews ordinances or proposals pertaining to youth activities as directed by the City Council.

Liaison: Chris Hallett / Neighborhood and Human Services

Vacant
Graduating May 2023
Reappointment

CURRENT MEMBERS

Name	District	Alt?	School Attending	Graduation	Appointed	Reappt'd	Expiration
VACANT		No					6/30/2024
Adamsha, Sarah	Willow	No		5/2027	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Black, Allie	Willow	No		5/2025	4/25/2023		6/30/2024
DeStefano, Karin	Mesquite	No		5/2025	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Dyer, Mikah	Ironwood	No	Sunset Heights	5/2024	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Fisher, Harmony	Acacia	No	Centennial High School	5/2024	5/3/2022		6/30/2024
Holly, Felicia	Pine	No		5/2027	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Houg, Jacob	Ironwood	No		5/2026	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Lowry, Liam	Willow	No		5/2024	4/25/2023		6/30/2024
Patel, Aneesa	Mesquite	No		5/2025	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Powell, Kimber	Willow	No	Zuni Hills Elementary	5/2025	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Ravindran, Riya	Willow	No	Mountain Ridge High School	5/2025	5/3/2022	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Rosales, Audrina	Pine	Yes	Paseo Verde Elementary	5/2026	8/23/2022		6/30/2024
Sehgal, Aditya	Willow	No		5/2024	4/25/2023		6/30/2024
Shrivastava, Ana	Mesquite	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Solano, Olivia	Pine	No		5/2028	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Stanca, Samuel	Ironwood	Yes		5/2025	4/25/2023		6/30/2024
Tewari, Manya	Ironwood	No	Great Heart Academies	5/2027	5/3/2022		6/30/2024
Vanteri, Ronit	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/3/2022		6/30/2024
Vemana, Akshathram	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Whetstine, Alliyz	Pine	No	Glendale Preparatory Academy	5/2024	5/3/2022		6/30/2024

CURRENT AND CURRENT VACANCIES

Name	District	Member Status	Term/Term Expiration	Alternate for Consideration	Future Term Expiration
VACANT (Was Farah Aboobucker)	Willow	Regular	6/30/2024	No	6/30/2026

October 11, 2023 Initial Appointment Interviews:

- Harris, Kellen
- Hernandez, Leonardo
- Tipton, Titus

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD INITIAL APPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS

Name	District	Qualification Summary
Harris, Kellen	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 5/2028 / West Wing Elementary School</p> <p>Interest: I am involved in my school's Student Government System and want to expand my knowledge of neighborhood and city-wide issues and opportunities where I can help make a positive impact. Furthermore, I have attended local meetings with my guardians regarding the expansion in the Mesquite District and I am very interested to understand the processes and procedures in defining and expanding such a great city. I hope to gain civic acumen, expand my relationships for my future development, and bring opportunities to my fellow classmates/peers.</p> <p>Extracurricular/Civic Activities:</p> <p>Qualities: Task Oriented, Public Speaking Skills, Excellent Note-Taker and Documentation Skills, Project Management, and Exceptional Curiosity; as well as Advanced Mathematical Skillsets up to the 9th Grade Level.</p> <p>Civic Engagement Meaning: Being aware of the issues and opportunities that face a city such as ours including schools, roadways, residential and commercial properties/expansions, waterways, etc. Being engaged invites curiosity to be a proactive problem-solver and listening from an unbiased, bipartisan approach. It also means being fiscally responsible to ensure the future of Peoria is on pace for success.</p>
Hernandez, Leonardo	Acacia	<p>Graduation: 5/2026 / Cotton Boll Elementary School / Interviewed 3/14/2023</p> <p>Interest: I would like to join to improve my leadership skills and I would like to learn from the other members and ultimately have some good experiences</p> <p>Extracurricular: I volunteer at a local church I would help with the computer presentations and sound systems as well as assisting the Sunday school teachers. I also have participated in recreational soccer.</p> <p>Qualities: I consider myself as a leader so I hope to bring my communication skills for the benefit of the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me it means to work to improve the community and helping others.</p>
Tipton, Titus	Pine	<p>Graduation: 05/2025 / Sunrise Mountain</p> <p>Affiliations: Not currently. However, I am in the process of applying for a lifeguard position with Peoria Aquatics.</p> <p>Interest: I am highly interested in the opportunity to develop my leadership skills in a manner that is constructive for my fellow peers and our community. Specifically, I hope to greatly expand my access to volunteer opportunities around the City of Peoria and expand those opportunities to others. I also want to increase community participation and unity specifically in my local neighborhoods while supporting the growth of the entire community as a whole.</p> <p>Extracurricular: I frequently volunteer with veteran service organizations, mainly Operation Enduring Gratitude. I was a Civil Air Patrol Cadet for two years, and I am currently transferring to the Naval Sea Cadets. I publicly speak often, and have given speeches at two events held by the City of Peoria: The Peoria Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee Heroes Flag Walk in May of 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>Qualities: Confidence under pressure or with challenging tasks. Leadership. Problem solving. Outgoingness.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means reaching out to everyone in our community, and specifically those in the most need of our assistance. Civic engagement is finding the people who need help and won't ask for it, and offer it to them in a personal and considerate manner.</p>