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Date received 1/30/23 Initials KT



CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Application for Charlottesville City Council Appointed Member

*Applications must be received in the Office of the Clerk of Council
no later than 5 p.m. on January 30, 2023*

In accordance with City Charter Sec. 8, the City seeks qualified applicants for appointment to the Charlottesville City Council to fill the unexpired term of departing Councilor Magill. Pursuant to state and local law, qualified applicants must be a resident of the City of Charlottesville for at least thirty days prior to appointment to fill the vacant seat. All persons who are qualified voters of the City of Charlottesville shall be eligible for appointment to fill the unexpired term until December 31, 2023. The appointed council member shall, before entering upon the duties of their offices, take the oaths prescribed for all City Councilors under Virginia law and qualify before the Charlottesville Circuit Court.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name Natalie Oschrin

Home Address [REDACTED], Charlottesville, VA 22902

*You must be registered to vote in the City of Charlottesville. You can determine this by checking your voter card or by calling the Voter Registration Office at 434-970-3250.

Phone [REDACTED] Cell Phone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

QUALIFICATIONS

1. How long have you resided in the City of Charlottesville? 28
2. Have you ever been elected or appointed as an Officer or Commissioner for the City of Charlottesville? No If so, please explain.
3. Please indicate why you are interested in serving on City Council:
Please see attached.

4. Please indicate areas of your experience and knowledge that you see as important for consideration of your application for appointment:

Please see attached.

5. Please list any relevant leadership skills or educational training:

Please see attached.

Indicate if you are attaching additional information pertinent to this application.

Attachments are provided

No attachments were necessary

Signature



Date 1/30/23

Please be advised that upon submission, this application and supporting documents becomes a public record and may be published by the City of Charlottesville.

Return application to:

**Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council
605 East Main Street
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville, VA 22902**

OR

Clerk@charlottesville.gov

Vacant Council Seat Application

Natalie Oschrin

3. Please indicate why you are interested in serving on City Council:

I want to push Charlottesville in a progressive direction where housing and educational inequity are addressed, bikeability & walkability is improved, additional sprawl into the county is prevented, density increased, and traffic/parking/transportation concerns are ameliorated.

The environment is in danger and we know too much about better alternatives to still be planning the future for cars and suburban developments. The city has made strides with the passage of the Future Land Use Map, and I eagerly anticipate additional housing being developed within the city limits, from ADUs to missing middle complexes and larger-scale multi-home buildings. Those who work in Charlottesville should be able to live in Charlottesville, and those who live in the city should be able to age in the city. Density works because people who live near their destinations do not need to get into a car to reach those destinations, improving accessibility for those who cannot drive or afford cars, reducing construction costs by eliminating the need for private car storage, and allowing the city to reallocate money that had previously been spent on subsidizing cars via storage (providing free or low-cost on-street parking) and usage (frequent re-paving and other maintenance) onto other projects to improve quality of life.

We need to address housing and accessibility concerns intelligently, with the complete ecosystem of the resident considered. For example, the proposal to build 250 units on the Rivanna flood plain in the Woolen Mills neighborhood would be a dramatic increase in density in an area that is technically walkable to downtown and grocery stores, providing new homes for many who might otherwise commute from the county or displace historic residents in areas sensitive to gentrification. But there is no sidewalk leading from either side of the proposed site, no protected bike lane, and there is a plan for over 300 parking spaces to adjoin the development, projecting an additional 1,300 car trips per day in and out of the neighboring streets. Shouldn't we incentivise this type of development to build as little parking as possible? Instead, the city should set standards that reduce the environmental impact by decreasing the impervious surface area of a parking lot, encourage residents to walk and bike by building safer streets with wide sidewalks and protected bike lanes, and redirect funds to subsidize e-bikes instead of car ownership. As anyone who has ever tried to bike or run in Charlottesville knows, there are hills! We are a perfect town to set off the e-bike revolution and become a model for other American cities looking for solutions.

We also need to improve the ridership and accessibility of our public transit system simply by making it more useful. I used the buses at UVA all the time but rarely now that I am a city resident. The main difference is that the UVA buses ran in a way that I didn't have to plan my journey around their schedule. If I showed up to a stop, I was confident that a bus would arrive soon and I could be on my way. Charlottesville may be too small or not dense enough yet for a streetcar or light rail system, but we have

the infrastructure for bus routes, and can get more people on buses and out of cars by having the system work for more residents. This isn't a revolutionary idea - this is what cities with high bus ridership have. Let's invest in joining that community.

Having both grown up in Charlottesville and gone to the University of Virginia, I have seen the way the city has grown and interacted with the landscape, community, and existing built environment over the last 30 years. I lived elsewhere after college, returning after graduate school with a new perspective with which I could experience my hometown. The ability to look at it from a distance, in comparison with other areas, and with the consideration of an adult, has made me eager to participate and invest in the city. I bring the perspective of a younger generation looking forward to an uncertain future, with the drive to move past incrementalism and address problems swiftly and at a correct scale. Paris is not the only city that can use local government to make large strides towards pedestrian safety and housing affordability in a relatively brief amount of time. Charlottesville can too.

The number of folks living below the poverty line in Charlottesville and the percentage of Charlottesville that is a parking lot are both around 20%. One way to address both of those things is to increase housing and reduce the need for cars. I'd like to partner with the community to do or change what is possible to bring both of those numbers down.

4. Please indicate areas of your experience and knowledge that you see as important for consideration of your application for appointment:

I have lived in Charlottesville nearly my entire life, since 1990. I have watched how and where things have changed, attended city schools, swam in city pools, played in city soccer leagues, walked and biked down city streets, worked in city businesses, commuted in and around the city, noticed the great decisions (the Downtown Mall) and the dreadful (Vinegar Hill "renewal"). Life in Charlottesville is alone a valuable resource. It deeply roots in me the need for Charlottesville to be the best it can be, addressing the concerns of the past and future. It gives me the learning experience of watching those who came before me fail and succeed.

More formally, I have participated in various local, state, and national political campaigns as a canvasser and organizer since high school. I have served as a local election officer in Charlottesville. The brief time I lived out of state included service as staff to Mike Seekings, a City Councilmember for the historic district of Charleston, SC for three years where I learned about and participated in municipal government at that level.

5. Please list any relevant leadership skills or educational training:

University of South Carolina, MA in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Class of 2016

Relevant coursework: Revenue Management, Finance, Marketing, Sustainability, Meeting Management, and Strategic Hospitality Policy

University of Virginia, College of Arts and Sciences, Class of 2011

Majors: History & American Studies

Minor: Art History