

Abigail Emison
City of Asheville Planning and Zoning Commission Application
Statement of Interest

I am seeking appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission because I believe my experience and education will be an asset to the Commission as it takes on more responsibilities in guiding development in Asheville in these tough economic times. Over the past years, I have witnessed the difficult balancing job that the Commission must do: weighing the needs of businesses, individuals, and neighborhoods to come up with solutions to grow and develop our city in the best possible way. During the same period of time, working as a planning consultant, I have advised other cities throughout the country, and their businesses, non-profits, and citizens in making similar decisions. For example, I have recommended changes to improve zoning codes to better address incompatible uses, convened a wide variety of stakeholders to reach consensus on the development and redevelopment of neighborhoods, and evaluated the viability of development options for sites throughout the country.

Locally, I have served on the Board of the Asheville Design Center and was part of the leadership team that broadened ADC's focus from the I-26 project to assisting in neighborhood-based projects throughout the Asheville area. I have enjoyed the interactions I have had with the City of Asheville, including the Citizen's Academy, the Downtown Master Plan and the Transit Master Plan processes. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my skills and experience to the Planning and Zoning Commission as it enters this next critical phase in Asheville's development.

Further details on my relevant experience and education are provided in the attached resume.