

Application for Planning & Zoning Commission

Jane Gianvito Mathews

As a more than 30 year city resident and advocate for comprehensive planning for Asheville, I would welcome the opportunity to once again serve the community as a member of the Asheville Planning & Zoning Commission.

It has been almost 12 years since I last had the privilege to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission, spending my final two years as the Commission Chair. Over those years I have continued my commitment to public service through membership and active participation on other important and somewhat related City boards. I served six years on the Riverfront District Design Review Committee and was co-chair during my last two years. During my final year, I also served on the newly created Riverfront Commission as it began to tackle the many development issues and opportunities along Asheville's Riverfronts. I was also appointed to the Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force and continued my service as a member of the ad-hoc Affordable Housing Working Group, helping to advise on policy issues related to fostering more affordable housing, particular through our City's development standards and policies. I am currently in the final year of my six-year tenure as a charter appointee to the Sustainable Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment (SACEE). This committee has helped set some landmark standards for municipal sustainability. I am particularly proud of our work, in collaboration with the Affordable Housing Working Group, in fostering new development incentives in both sustainability and affordability in target areas within our city.

Over the years I have continued to educate myself on various subjects related to both sustainable design and smart-growth strategies and have applied this knowledge wherever possible to my professional work. We have achieved much in Asheville over the last 20 plus years to strengthen the rich fabric of our city but new challenges as well as new opportunities mean that we must continue to refine and develop new tools to ever improve our planning for both current and future needs. As an architect and citizen planner with a good knowledge of where we have come from and a studied interest in where we can head, I would welcome the opportunity to share my knowledge and professional expertise to help steward the future of development and growth for Asheville through service on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

A resume containing my past relevant experience and education is attached. I appreciate City Council's consideration of this application and would welcome the opportunity to meet with them to discuss further my background and interest in serving this commission.