

City of Asheville
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Application Form

APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND SEVERAL MEETINGS OF A BOARD PRIOR TO APPLYING AND/OR APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD

Name of board or commission(s): City Council

Your name: Bill Branyon Home Phone #: 358-9114

Street address: 75 Henric Ha City: Asheville Zip Code: 28801

Mailing address (if different): _____

Employer: Four Points by Sheraton (Freelance writer)

Your position: Clerk Office Phone #: 253-1851

Resident of City Asheville County Burke Race W * Sex M * Age 52 *

Are you a United States Citizen (circle one)? Yes or No

Residence location (check one): Central _____ North South _____ East _____ West _____

How did you become aware of the opening? _____ Webpage _____ Current Volunteer _____ eNews _____
Government Channel Newspaper _____ Radio _____ Organization _____ Agenda _____ Other _____

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving (use additional sheets if necessary). Expertise: Legal Technical _____ Fundraising _____ Community Contacts
 Business Management (Financial) _____ Business Management (Operational) _____ Public Speaking

Finished four years of law school, can balance budgets, have many friends, understand square footage.

Return to:
Maggie Burleson, City Clerk
Post Office Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov
Telephone: 259-5601
Fax #: 259-5499

Signature: Bill Branyon
Date: 11/20/05
E-Mail: bill.branyon@yahoo.com
Fax #: _____

* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

Resume of Bill Branyon
828-350-9114
75 Henrietta, Asheville, NC 28801
billbranyon@Yahoo.com

Education:

Vanderbilt University: 1973-1977. BA History, minor in Chemistry
Western Carolina University 1987-1989. Masters in American History

Journalistic/Editorial Experience:

1989-1993: Staff Reporter for *Green Line* (now the *Mountain Xpress*); Contact Jeff Fobes – Editor.

1993-current: Over three hundred journalist and editorial pieces for *Mountain Xpress*, *Asheville Citizen*, *Community Connections*, *The Nonviolent Activist*, and various environmental newspapers.

Other Writing Experience:

Two novels; *Blue Ridge Blues* and *Asheville NC, Circa 2000 AD*. The former was the 13th best seller at Malaprops in 1995. The latter reviewed by UNCA English Professor David Hopes as “genuinely funny”, “electrifying”, of “great beauty and pathos,” and “heartbreakingly compassionate.” Former Mayor Leni Sitnick calls it “A fun and funny, fast-paced frolic through fifteen years of Asheville and Buncombe County politics and culture. Former Chairman of the County Commission and UNCA Political Science Professor Gene Rainey calls it “an analysis of small-town society that I find hilarious and scintillating.”

Also a Thesis for a Masters Degree in History: *Preacher's of Social Peace*.

Other Work Experience:

2007-present: Fours Points by Sheraton clerk: contact Lori at 253-1851.

1999-2007: Weekend Clerk, Comfort Inn River Ridge: Contact Kathy Studwell: 298-9141.

1993-1999: UNCA Residency Officer: Contact Caroline Miller, 251-6505.

1987-1988: Western Carolina University Assistantship researching NC Governor Zeb Vance. Contact Max Williams, WCU History Professor.

.References:

Jeff Fobes: Editor of *Mountain Xpress*. 251-1333

Gene Rainey: Former Chairman of the County Commissioners, 258-0922

Bill Branyon's Answers to CC Application Questions

- 1. One of my motivations for applying is to absorb the political fallout from resisting growth pressures. I'll do the neck-sticking-out and take the flack, while you quietly vote to establish reasonable growth approaches, rather than follow the private plans of wealthy, often non-local property owners.*
- 2. I am left when it comes to economic issues, and libertarian when it comes to life style choices. We could have a balanced budget, but we've not even tapped the potential of sharing amongst like-minded people. Instead we squander huge amounts of money on the latest Madison Avenue gimmick. Witness the New York Times whose front page section is filled with ads for silly frocks, shiny rocks and super expensive clocks.*
- 3. A. Living wage and affordable housing. B. Legislate a system in which the people choose how big we grow, population and development wise, rather than a few big property interests. I'm not against growth per se, but think the people should choose rather than unbridled capitalism.*
- 4. A. Living wage and affordable housing. B. Growth choice rather than growth submissiveness. For issue "A" we should go through the laborious process of going through the state to get a living wage tax, affordable housing tax on all luxury items. Or we can go ahead locally and deal with*

the consequences and the conservative state legislature has a connotation. For "B" we need one year of debate about how many people we want and how much development. Then have a referendum on it. Every ten years we should have another such referendum.

5. Top funding should be for affordable housing, living wage initiatives and purchase and preservation of public lands. Don't reduce the budget for that will add to suffering, but promote sharing among those with plenty, for those with needs. We have a great opportunity with capitalism on its knees. We can make logical, truly sustainable and panic proof economy, and should start it locally because nationally the large interests have too much power.