

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: Duane "Ziggy" Nix Home Phone #: 828-450-7380

Street address: 28 Broad St. #5 City: Asheville Zip Code: 28801

Mailing address (if different): _____

Employer: Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College

Your position: Adjunct Instructor Office Phone #: 828-254-1921 ext. 867

Resident of City County _____ Race white * Sex male * Age 36 *

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

UNC-Wilmington - MA in English

UNC-Wilmington - BA in Communication Studies

East Henderson High School - Diploma

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

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

Signature: Duane Z. Nix

Date: 11/26/08

E-Mail: nix.duane@cbtech.edu

Fax #: _____

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

DUANE "ZIGGY" NIX

EXPERIENCE

1/05 Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College Asheville, NC
Adjunct Instructor

- Teach five to seven classes per semester
- Classes taught include Expository Writing and World Literature
- Average class size is 20

6/14/08-7/31/08 Obama For America Asheville, NC
Obama Organizing Fellow

- Trained with the Obama campaign about community organizing
- Focused on voter registration, canvassing, phone-banking, and identifying volunteers within the WNC community

6/03 Target Asheville, NC
Various positions

- Backroom Team Member
- Backroom Overnight Team Leader
- Entertainment Specialist

EDUCATION

1990-1995 Univ. of North Carolina at Wilmington Wilmington, NC
■ B.A., Communication Studies.

1996-1998 Univ. of North Carolina at Wilmington Wilmington, NC
■ M.A., English

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

UNC-W Student Body President 1993-95, UNC-W Board of Trustees member 1993-95, UNC-W Student Orientation Leader 1991-94, Founding Father of NC Rho chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, WLOZ campus DJ 1992-95, Served on a variety of committees within the university.

REFERENCES

1. Dr. Denis Carter, (910) 962-3540
2. Kenet Adamson, (828) 254-1921 Ext. 7650
3. Ellen Perry, (828) 254-1921 Ext. 829

1. What motivates you to apply for this position?

As a native of Western North Carolina I feel invested in my surrounding community and a need to give back to my community. Through my experience working as an adjunct instructor at Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College I think I've had the unique opportunity to work with a good cross-section of Asheville's residents and listen to their concerns and worries about their community. This experience was further enhanced by my work as an Obama Organizing Fellow this summer registering residents to vote, organizing and running informational meetings, and working within a diverse community with sometimes opposing views.

One of my other motivations is that I am someone who rents and lives within walking distance of downtown and therefore my views about the future of my community is directly influenced by my experience living in an urban environment.

2. Where do you fall on the conservative-liberal spectrum in terms of fiscal and social policy?

If I were to plot out my political leanings I would come up as fiscally conservative and socially liberal. I believe in a balanced budget, but I also believe that there are projects that pay themselves back over time and are therefore worth running a deficit if those projects quickly pay that deficit back down through increased revenue or save money over time.

Fiscal and social policy have to be balanced simply because these two are linked to one another and therefore sacrifices have to be made to one or the other in the interest of the community. While it is a terrible thing to cut social programs; it is equally a terrible thing to run our community

3. In your eyes, what should be the top 2 or 3 priorities our City Council should be focused on in the upcoming year and why?

The overriding problem that Asheville is faced with is related to growth. There needs to be a consensus on the downtown master plan, the Unified Development Ordinance needs to have various loop holes closed, and the city needs to promote a smart thoughtful growth pattern outside of downtown to avoid unchecked sprawl. Asheville is constantly growing and with that growth comes environmental issues, traffic issues, and some neighborhoods are unfortunately sacrificed.

Given the economic problems the nation faces as a whole, this pinch will be particularly felt in the Asheville economy due to our reliance on tourism. The aforementioned issues will have to be retuned to deal with the economic downturn and therefore quick fixes must be avoided. While it is nice to see a quick turnaround of revenue, the city must balance the immediate cost with the long term cost to our community.

4. What do you consider the most crucial problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville? How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?

As mentioned above there are many problems facing Asheville, but the largest problem is that the Asheville economy is unfortunately linked directly to tourism. This means that an overriding amount of residents are economically bound to the service industry. The city council needs to attempt to diversify Asheville's economy by bringing (hopefully) environmentally friendly manufacturing jobs to our area. While there are many different approaches to bringing more manufacturing jobs to our area, one example is to work in tandem with surrounding schools to bring more manufacturers to the Asheville area. We have nationally recognized schools in our area and should use that fact to bring in more industry.

5. 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years will be financially tough for the City. What will be your top funding priorities and what would you like to see reduced to balance the budget?

To help balance the budget I would suspend all capital projects unless they are deemed urgent or have progressed too far (i.e. already in construction) to suspend those projects. Other budgetary items to be looked into are the amount the city spends on vehicles, consultants, and any programs/departments that are budgetary black holes.

Programs that I would not cut are the Public Safety Department, the affordable housing initiatives, Transit Services Fund, and the money the city spends on city events (i.e. artistic endeavors). While I wish I could cut the money on city events, I would hesitate to do that because we are still in a tourist centric economy in Asheville and those events bring money into our community.