

**First Name \*** Philip  
**Last Name \*** Spensley  
**Today's Date \*** 2/22/2018  
**Address \***  
**Phone Number \***  
**Email \***

**Board/Commission/Task Force you wish to apply for:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Culture Commission                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Charter Commission  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Authority                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Commission  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Preservation Commission                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Board  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Redevelopment Authority                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Commission   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Board   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northfield Area Fire & Rescue Services Joint Powers Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Park & Recreation Advisory Board  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission/Zoning Board                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text" value="Climate Action Plan Advisory Bo"/> |

Summarize why you are interested in serving:

Addressing climate change is the most important issue I can think of if we are to survive on the planet. Climate change is real and it is amplified by human, industrial, and social practices. We need to find economic and sustainable means both to adapt to climate change as it unfolds, to anticipate its effects and to plan and work in intelligent and coordinated ways to prevent its further deleterious effects, and to utilize all the means at our disposal and some still to be imagined in order to do so. I want to help shape and direct how our city goes about doing this. I believe my understanding of the scope of the issue, my experience in planning and administration and organizational development, and my passion will serve this process extremely well.

Summarize your personal background and attributes you feel are relevant to consideration of your appointment such as community involvement, experience serving on governing boards, training, education, work history, or other personal values, experience or perspectives:

I have broad and extensive experience in planning, organization, coordination, and execution of complex projects. While my working background has primarily been in higher education (professor emeritus and

administrator) and as a performer and director in professional theatre and film, I have close ties to the environment, though in a non-professional capacity. I founded academic departments for three universities in Canada, administered them, developing curricula and facilities, as well as establishing and leading programs abroad. I have served on a variety of boards at various levels, including advisory councils to the Canadian Ministry of Heritage and to the Quebec Ministries of Education and of Culture. I was a member of the Montreal advisory committee for Canadian Actors Equity and served on its executive. I wrote the organizing bylaws for the establishment of Theatre Canada and Theatre Ontario. I later served on the board of Theatre Canada in charge of professional training and helped plan and organize and adjudicate provincial and national theatre festival competitions. I helped found the Quebec Drama Festival, the Association of Drama Educators of Quebec, the Anglo-Quebec Writers Association, and was President of the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Authors' Association. I am a published and produced playwright, and a published theatre historian.

With regards to the environment, I grew up in a farming community utilizing organic and sustainable practices. I was a member of the British, American, and Canadian Boy Scouts where I learned to appreciate the natural world and to leave my campsite cleaner than I found it. I served many years as a Scout Leader focused on environmental survival techniques, especially winter survival. One of my sons established Sequoia Energy and built the largest wind farm in Canada, along with hydro and solar projects. Another son works for the United Nations (biodiversity, climate change adaptation), currently assigned to the Green Fund (the primary international funding organization for addressing climate change issues). From them, I understand particular and large scale strategies. My own contributions these days are more limited...they include my financial support of at least a dozen environmental organizations, national, state, and local...such as Conservation Minnesota, Environmental Action, Fresh Energy, Clean Water Action, the National Environmental Law Center, and at the most local level, Northfield Curbside Composting.

As for community involvement in Northfield, I am a founding member of Just Food Coop (#17) and served 3 years on its Board of Governors; I was a member of the

NDDC/NAG's Arts Culture and Recreation Committee (2 yrs), was appointed to be a member of the ArtsPlan06 planning committee which gave rise to the creation of the city's Arts and Culture Commission, was subsequently appointed to and elected Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission (9 years) during which time I led the Commission's initiatives to establish and find funding for the Northfield Living Treasure Award, the Sidewalk Poetry project, the High School Sculpture program, and helped lay the ground work for the creation of the position of a Northfield Poet Laureate. I started the NAG's summer Shakespeare in the Park program, directed plays for it as well as during the NAG's regular seasons, have taught courses for the NAG, the Elder Collegium and the Senior Center/50 North. Currently I am a member of the Convention and Visitors Bureau (3rd year), Board member of the Friends of Lashbrook Park, dedicated as Northfield's only natural passive prairie park (3 years), and am its current President. Elsewhere in the community I have worked on projects with the Northfield Historical Society and on Northfield Historical's podcasts, with the Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra and the Bridge Chamber Music Festival, and served as a coach (boys 11-13) for Northfield Soccer Association (3 summers).

I know how to plan, organize and carry through. I know how to value the interests and commitment of others and to work with many in a collaborative manner. I care deeply about the environment and this community and want to ensure the lasting health of both.

**To submit form please scroll to the end of the page and click SUBMIT**

Additional information regarding each group can be found on the City's website: [Boards/Commission page](#) or on each group's respective web pages linked below.

#### [Arts and Culture Commission](#)

The Arts and Culture Commission advises City Council on the development of arts and cultural activities, organizations, and facilities in Northfield.

#### [Charter Commission](#)

The Charter Commission is responsible for reviewing and revising the City Charter to ensure that it meets all State & Federal laws and meets the needs of the citizens of Northfield. The City Charter is the constitution of Northfield's city government.

#### [Economic Development Authority](#)

The Economic Development Authority (EDA) seeks to improve the economic condition of Northfield. Focusing on appropriate commercial and industrial development, the EDA works to establish a higher tax base and additional job opportunities for the citizens of Northfield.

#### [Environmental Quality Commission](#)

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) advises on matters concerning environmental quality and natural resources,

including the implementation of the environmental policy enacted by ordinance.

#### [Heritage Preservation Commission](#)

The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) seeks to safeguard the heritage of Northfield by preserving sites and structure, which reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, visual, or architectural history.

#### [Hospital Board](#)

The Hospital Board oversees the administration, operation and maintenance of all hospitals, convalescent homes, nursing homes or other medical facilities, nor or hereafter owned and operated by the City of Northfield. The board may make such rules, regulations and by-laws concerning the same entities as it may deem for the best interests of such facilities.

#### [Housing & Redevelopment Authority](#)

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority's (HRA) mission is to provide a sufficient supply of adequate, safe, and sanitary dwellings in Northfield.

#### [Human Rights Commission](#)

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) seeks to secure for all citizens equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, and education. The commission works to ensure full citizen participation in this community by assisting the State Department of Human Rights in implementing the Minnesota Human Rights Act and by advising the City Council on long range programs to improve community relations in the City of Northfield.

#### [Library Board](#)

The Library Board makes recommendations regarding the library administration, policies, annual budget, operations, and maintenance of all library facilities.

#### [Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use](#)

The Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use seeks to raise community awareness about local youth substance use and to make recommendations for community interventions to reduce youth use.

#### [Northfield Area Fire and Rescue Services-JPB](#)

The Northfield City Council approved a Joint Powers Agreement for fire protection and rescue services at their April 1, 2014 City Council meeting. The agreement establishes a joint fire department that will be called the Northfield Area Fire and Rescue Service (NAFRS). The services will be governed by an eight member Joint Powers Board. Five board members will be appointed by the Northfield City Council. Additional information can be found on the [NAFRS website](#).

#### [Park & Recreation Advisory Board](#)

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) directly advises staff and officials regarding the public parks system and all public recreational facilities in the City of Northfield. PRAB assists with long-range planning for land acquisition for parks, natural areas and trails, as well as detailed plans for park development and use and recreational facilities.

#### [Planning Commission and Zoning Boards of Appeals](#)

The Planning Commission prepares and maintains the city's Comprehensive Plan, conducts public hearings and makes recommendations to the City Council on proposed changes affecting zoning and land use.

Questions: Contact Deb Little, City Clerk, City of Northfield, 801 Washington St., Northfield, Mn 55057  
Email: [deb.little@ci.northfield.mn.us](mailto:deb.little@ci.northfield.mn.us)

NOTE: All information supplied on this form will be public data. Your address, telephone number, email address do not become public until you are appointed. You must supply either a telephone number or email address (you may supply both) where you can be reached. If you wish to supply additional private contact information for City use only, please attach an additional sheet or submit via email.