

2015 PLANNING COMMISSIONER BIOS

PAT CONNOLLY – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2010 – current term expires 2016

891 Lakeview Avenue, Saint Paul 55117

Ward 5 District Council 10

Pat Connolly moved to St. Paul in 1999 after graduate school at UW-Madison where he earned a masters degrees in Real Estate and Urban Land Economics and in Land Resources. His B.S. in Geography and Urban Studies came from the University of Minnesota, and he grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota. Pat and his wife Emma live near Lake Como and they also own investment property in Macalester-Groveland. He recently took a position with the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities as Director of Real Estate Development. Prior to that Pat also had chapters in his commercial real estate career at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Metro Plains, Common Bond Communities, and Welsh Companies. Pat teaches periodically in the Urban Studies department at the U of M, pursues a wedding photography avocation, and adores his daughter Tilly and his son Frank. Pat tries to bring to the Commission a sense of humor, respect for a variety of points of view, common sense and openness to change and growth.

ANNE DEJOY – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2014 – current term expires 2016

965 Payne Avenue, Saint Paul 55130

Ward 6 District 2

Anne DeJoy has more than 25 years' experience in community-based economic development. For ten years, DeJoy served as the Executive Director of the Riverview Economic Development Association (REDA). She was appointed as an Assistant to the Mayor in 1999 where she served under two administrations. DeJoy is an alumna of Middlesex College in New Jersey where she studied Marketing Art and Design. She received training in Economic Development and Real Estate Finance from the National Development Council (NDC) and completed Economic Development Strategies training by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). DeJoy received a proclamation from Governor Carlson for her leadership on the Economic Development Committee for the Chicano Latino Affairs Council. She has participated in panel discussions focused on economic development and neighborhood planning and has served on numerous boards and committees including the West Side Citizen's Organization, Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation, Mayor's Committee on Cultural Relations, Neighborhood Justice Center and the Payne Arcade Business Association and others. DeJoy is currently the Director of Commercial Development for the East Side Neighborhood Development Company, Inc.

DAN EDGERTON – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2012 – current term expires 2018

1157 Como Blvd. West, Saint Paul: 55103

Ward 5 District Council 10

Dan Edgerton leads the Water Resources Team in the Saint Paul office of Stantec, a consulting engineering and planning firm. The focus of his work is infrastructure planning and sustainable stormwater management. Dan received his B.S. and M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He and his family have lived in the Como Park neighborhood for the past 26 years.

GENE GELGELU – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2010 – current term expires 2016

1821 University Avenue W, Ste. S-290, Saint Paul 55104

Ward 7 District Council 4

Gene Gelgelu has lived in Saint Paul for more than ten years. He is executive director for African Economic Development Solutions, a nonprofit organization that serve African immigrant and refugee communities in Twin Cities and Metropolitan area. He holds a Bachelors degree in finance from Metropolitan States University in Minnesota and Master of Business Administration in finance from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He has worked with both for profit and nonprofit organizations at a leadership capacity and built diverse experiences. Mr. Gelgelu has a special interest in community development.

WILLIAM LINDEKE – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2012 – current term expires 2018

148 West George Street, #7 Avenue, Saint Paul: 55107

Ward 2 District Council 3

Bill Lindeke is a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota Department of Geography, working on bicycle transportation, urban planning, and public space. He has taught classes on the history of public space in US cities, global cities, and biogeography. He works with Streets.mn (a local planning and urbanism website), Civic/Media-Minnesota (a local public affairs media organization), and KFAI radio.

Bill has an avid interest in jazz and baroque music and baseball ritual, and is the sole proprietor of the Twin City Sidewalks website, named one of the Twin Cities' top 11 blogs by WCCO. He was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Mendota Heights. He has lived in St. Paul's North End since 2004.

KYLE MAKARIOS – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2013 – current term expires 2016

851 Dayton Avenue, Saint Paul, 55104

Ward 1 District Council 8

Kyle Makarios is the Director of Government Affairs for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters. A resident of Saint Paul since 1995, Kyle graduated from Macalester College with a bachelor's degree in History. He currently is active in a number of community organizations including as the secretary/treasurer of the Minnesota Housing Partnership, a leaseholder of the Rondo Community Land Trust, and a member of the Dean's Advisory Council at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He and his wife Erin have two children.

MELANIE MCMAHON – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2014 – current term expires 2017

1266 Scheffer Avenue, Saint Paul, 55116

Ward 3 District Council 15

Melanie McMahon is a long time St. Paul resident, and has lived for the past decade in the Highland Park neighborhood. She is an attorney who has worked in private practice, at the Rider Bennett law firm, and in the public sector, at the Minnesota House of Representatives. She received her bachelor's degree from the College of St. Benedict and her law degree from the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

Melanie is involved in her community as Representative on the Highland District Council and has also served on the Long Range Capital Improvement Budget Committee of St. Paul. She enjoys running and biking along the river and spends a lot of time with her husband and children at all the great parks and Rec Centers in St. Paul.

PAULA MERRIGAN – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2010 – current term expires 2016

333 Washington Avenue N, Minneapolis 55401

Ward 3 District Council 14

Paula Merrigan, LEED AP and a Principal of DJR Architecture, Inc. When she moved back to Minnesota, she made a conscious choice to live in Saint Paul. She was attracted to the strength of its neighborhoods, its rich history, and the character of its built environment, its cultural diversity, and its relationship to the riverfront. Her professional experiences have equipped her to recognize the importance of planning in bringing together key components of the urban environment in order to stimulate revitalization, strengthen neighborhoods, and offer diverse opportunities to live, work, and play.

She is an Alumna Fellow with the Mondale Policy Forum of the Humphrey Institute where she did research on housing and public policy. After years of presenting development projects to public agencies, and planning commissions she felt well prepared to sit on the other side of the table. She embraces this chance to give something back to the city whose quality of life she so values.

GAIUS NELSON – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2006 – current term expires 2015

206 Wheeler Street S, Saint Paul 55105-1927

Ward 3 District Council 14

Gaius Nelson is a long time resident of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood where he lives with his wife and daughter. He has been active in neighborhood issues since the early 1980's, serving as president of the community council, chair of its housing & land use committee and as the Macalester-Groveland community council representative on several city-wide planning task groups.

As a nationally recognized architect focused on the design of Environments for Aging and special needs populations, Mr. Nelson and his firm, Nelson-Tremain Partnership, pioneered the household model for design of non-institutional, person-centered, care and living environments. The Shaller Family Shalom East Campus at Victoria Park in Saint Paul's West End is a high density urban example of his work.

Mr. Nelson also serves on national committees charged with the creation and updating of Codes and Guidelines for the design and construction of health care facilities.

His family enjoys travel, international cuisine, and are dedicated boosters of the Saint Paul Stars Synchronized Swim Team.

REBECCA NOECKER – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2012 – current term expires 2018

14 Robie Street West, Saint Paul: 55107

Ward 2 District Council 3

Rebecca Noecker grew up in St. Louis Park and earned her bachelor's degree in Social Studies from Harvard College. After graduation, Rebecca taught with Teach For America in Baton Rouge and then worked as an education program officer at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. In 2009, she moved to India to work with Teach For India and returned to settle in Saint Paul in 2011. Rebecca now manages business and non-profit partnerships at Achieve Mpls, a non-profit organization that supports the Minneapolis Public Schools. She looks forward to helping preserve and enhance the local vitality of Saint Paul in her first term on the Planning Commission.

CHRISTOPHER OCHS – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2017

850 Dayton Avenue, Saint Paul 55104

Ward 1 District Council 8

Christopher Ochs is a twenty-one year resident of Ward 1 Saint Paul where he and his wife are raising their young family of four children. He is an award-winning landscape designer with Windsor Companies; holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Design, two Master degrees from the University of Minnesota in Landscape Architecture and Urban & Regional Planning; and has served the Dist 8 Planning Council, Selby Area CDC, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. Chris is well traveled and draws a considerable amount of geographical and cultural experiences from visiting or residing in bustling cities and rural villages across the globe. He hopes his experience and sense of community will contribute to the well-being of the City of Saint Paul.

TREVOR OLIVER – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2017

2021 Margaret Street, Saint Paul 55119

Ward 7 District Council 1

Trevor Oliver is research consultant for the majority caucus at the Minnesota House of Representatives. Prior to taking that position, Trevor practiced municipal and land use law at Kelly & Lemmons, a Saint Paul law firm. Trevor received a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and obtained his law degree from the University of Minnesota. He lives on St. Paul's Eastside with his wife and three children.

JULIE PADILLA – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2017

100 N. 6th Street, Ste. 227B, Minneapolis 55403

Ward 4 District Council 10

Julie Padilla is Managing Director and Chief Legal officer with Eutecticsm a clean energy finance company located in Minneapolis. She holds a BS in Biology: Ecology from Winona State University and her JD from William Mitchell College of Law. Julie is on the Section Council of the Minnesota State Bar Association Corporate Counsel Section. She lives in the Como Park neighborhood with her family and appreciates the spirit of community and civic participation fostered in Saint Paul.

ELIZABETH (Betsy) REVEAL – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2017

534 Superior Street, Saint Paul 55102

Ward 2 District Council 9

Betsy Reveal returned to St. Paul in 2009, after working in various American cities and abroad. She served as the chief budget officer, chief financial officer, or chief operating officer in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, PA., Seattle, WA, and the Kennedy School at Harvard, Amtrak and the United Nations Foundations. For the past fifteen years she has maintained a national and international consulting practice. She served on the Planning Commission in Philadelphia and worked closely with Planning Departments and Commissions in Seattle and Washington. Betsy lives downtown in Wacouta Commons.

EMILY SHIVELY – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2012 – current term expires 2018

1284 Bush Avenue, Saint Paul: 55106

Ward 7 District Council 4

Emily Shively is a Landscape designer and planner holding Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Urban and Regional Planning degrees from the University of Minnesota. She is particularly interested in the intersection of design, planning and public policy and the importance of community engagement in sustaining vibrant places. She is a resident of Dayton's Bluff and served on the District 4 Community Council from 2005-2007. Emily also currently serves on the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission.

TERRI THAO – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2011 – current term expires 2018

570 Asbury Street, Ste. 207, St. Paul 55104

Ward 6 District Council 2

Terri Thao is a program officer at Nexus Community Partners, a non-profit community building intermediary. At Nexus, Terri runs the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute (BCLI) which trains and places participants on publically appointed boards or commissions with the goal to advance equity in the Twin Cities region. Terri is an active community volunteer, serving on the boards of the Asian Economic Development Association, CommonBond Communities and the F.R. Bigelow Foundation. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Russian and a Master's Degree in Public Policy, both obtained from the University of Minnesota.

WENDY UNDERWOOD – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2014 – current term expires 2017

212 Colborne Street, Saint Paul 55102

Ward 2 District Council 9

Wendy Underwood lives in the West Seventh neighborhood of Saint Paul. She is currently a Manager with Target Corporation. Prior to joining Target, Wendy was the Director of Government Affairs for the City of Saint Paul. Wendy is currently a board member of the West Seventh Community Center and writes for the Community Reporter, a monthly neighborhood newspaper. Wendy and her husband, Darren Tobolt, enjoy volunteering in the neighborhood, trying to become gardeners, and working on projects with their 1882 Victorian home.

JUN-LI WANG – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2010 – current term expires 2018

318 Prince Street, Ste. 270, Saint Paul 55101

Ward 4 District Council 11

Jun-Li Wang is a connector of people, places and ideas. As Artist Community Organizer at Springboard for the Arts, she creates and delivers programs that organize and empower artists, build reciprocal relationships between communities and their artists, and train artists to address community interests – locally, regionally and nationally. Jun-Li has extensive local and international experience in asset-based community development, neighborhood leadership, and training. Jun-Li worked in China for 5 years for several international non-profits including The Asia Foundation and Project HOPE before returning to obtain a MPS in International Development from Cornell University. Prior to joining Springboard, she has worked for Farm in the City, Hamline Midway Coalition, Intermedia Arts, and Public Art Saint Paul. On occasion, she sells her textile craft art in local stores. Jun-Li also manages Paint the Pavement and is active on the board of Urban Boatbuilders, a metro non-profit serving at-risk youth.

DANIEL WARD II – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2008 – current term expires 2017

1234 Dale Street, Saint Paul 55117

Ward 5 District Council 6

Daniel is the owner/principal licensed real estate broker for Capitol Realty Group, Inc. focusing on commercial sales, REO listings and sales, investment property sales and infill property development for emerging markets within the St. Paul/Minneapolis urban cores.

Daniel is also the owner of The Bethel Group, Inc. a design/build firm whose focus is working with private investors and non-profit groups engaged in neighborhood revitalization. Other experience has been in the capacity of project management, consulting/design, site acquisition, due diligence reports and third party inspections.

Daniel is the immediate past board president of SPARC; he serves on SPARC's Development and Housing committee's and is also a board member of District 6 Planning Council serving the North End and south Como neighborhoods.

BARBARA WENCL – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2007 – current term expires 2016

957 Oak View Ct, Saint Paul 55119

Ward 7 District Council 1

Barb Wencl is a retired Teacher/Librarian. As a teacher her communications skills are especially useful in meetings and she has the ability to mediate agreements. She is a past president of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, and previously served on the Planning Commission from 1988-1998, during which she chaired the Phalen Village Plan Task Force. She currently serves on the board of the North East Neighborhoods Development Corporation.

DAVID WICKISER – Appointed to Planning Commission in 2009 – current term expires 2017

354 Duke Street, Saint Paul 55102

Ward 2 District Council 9

David Wickiser is employed with New City Real Estate, Inc. His day to day skills and experience involves intense knowledge of complex financing, small and mid-sized development (commercial), and residential and commercial real estate transactions, as well as knowing issues facing small and mid-sized business. He brings to the table an understanding of development and zoning, along with the ramifications of decisions made.