

Nancy Fischman
1707 Paty Dr
Johnson City TN 37604

October 1, 2018

City of Johnson City Board of Commissioners:

I would like to place my name into consideration to fill the remaining two years of Commissioner Ralph Van Brocklin's term of office.

I have lived in Johnson City for 40 years, and I have been involved with various parts of the arts community for almost that long. I have been on the board and staff of The Road Company, a not-for-profit experimental theater that graced the stages of the Tri-Cities from 1976 into the 1990s. I have served on the Johnson City Area Arts Council, and helped raise funds for the Blue Plum Festival. Recently, I became a member of the Public Art Committee, where I am responsible for the Leased Art program, which chooses the sculptures that are present in Founders Park and various sites in our downtown. I was voted in as vice-chair last year. I have also helped plan and run a holiday art show called Holiday Splash. The Public Art Committee is planning on doing this again in December. I am a potter, and I am a member of Tennessee Craft Northeast.

I have been active in the Jewish community, on the board of directors of B'nai Sholom Congregation, teaching in the religious school, tutoring students studying for their Bat and Bar Mitzvah services, and also serving as president of the congregation for two terms. I chaired the committee that hired the current Rabbi, Arthur Rutberg.

Recently, I became a downtown business owner. I have bought a building on Commerce Street, which will become artist studios, a gallery, and a bakery/café. Construction work will begin as soon as some minor details have been worked out with the City building codes personnel. I am very excited about participating in our downtown Renaissance, and I feel that the arts will play a strong role in that process.

The development of our downtown area is one of the greatest moves forward that I have seen in the 40 years I have been here. The flood mitigation projects that gave us two new parks downtown have sparked much more development that will become part of the economic expansion of the city and the region. The move toward making Johnson City a destination point for outdoor activities will bring many visitors to downtown and other areas of the city. The development of other recreation sites, such as the Tweetsie Trail and Tannery Knobs Mountain Bike Park, Jacob's Nature Park, and a new park near King Commons will enhance our reputation and bring in much needed funds through hotel stays and restaurant visits. The corridor along Walnut Street between downtown and ETSU is prime for developing and will act as a connector for students and faculty and the downtown business community.

I would like to see other areas of the city benefit from the kind of planning that has been taking place downtown. Are there other spaces that could be turned into parks for recreation? We have the Winged Deer complex with all its sports fields, but where else can we find the space we need to expand? We need to work with Washington County to find the best direction for us all as we look toward the future for our children. Where can we encourage new businesses to open and employ more citizens? There is a lot to do to continue to move us forward.

I knew Commissioner Van Brocklin, and greatly admired him. His boots will be hard to fill. I would like to think that I share his forward-looking attitude and his ability to get along with the other commissioners on the board as well as with City staff. I spent some time with him discussing his vision for the City, and I appreciate his attention to detail and his analysis of any issue that came before the Commission. I would like to be able to give back to this community for all the benefits it has given to me. I would like the opportunity to serve on the Johnson City Board of Commissioners.

Thank you for considering my application.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Fischman". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy Fischman

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