



Rio Magisterial District School Board Member Application

Applications must be received in the office no later than 5 p.m., on Friday, October 13, 2023

Name Karen Bailey Combs

Home Address [Redacted]

*You must be registered to vote in the Rio Magisterial District. You can determine this by checking your voter card or by calling the Voter Registration Office at 434-972-4173.

Phone Cell Phone 423-833-6456

Email karencombs6522@gmail.com

Do you currently have children/grandchildren in ACPS? Yes X No

If no, have you had children/grandchildren in ACPS? Yes X No

How long have you resided in Albemarle County? 2 years

Have you ever been appointed to an Albemarle County School Board/Albemarle County Public Schools Committee/Council? If so, please explain your previous committee/council work.

Please indicate why you are interested in serving on the School Board.

I believe that Public Education is the great equalizer in lifting families out of pove

Please indicate where appropriate, areas of your experience and knowledge:

- Checkboxes for various experience areas: School Construction, Research, General Construction, Education/Curriculum, Engineering, Databases, Architectural Expertise, Budget Analysis, County Planning, Nonprofit and Human Services, Land Development, Public Administration, Statistics/Demographics, Federal Government/Military, Finance, Other, County Government.

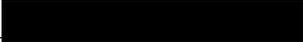
Please further explain your experience(s) as indicated in the list above, including any leadership skills, education and experiences.

I was an Urban Planner for 20 years. In that time, I have worked with many ag

Indicate if you are attaching additional information pertinent to this application.

Attachments are provided

No attachments were necessary

Signature _____  _____ Date 10/10/2023

Be advised that upon submission, this application and supporting documents becomes a public document and may be published by Albemarle County Public Schools.

Return application to:

Christine Thompson, Clerk
Albemarle County School Board
401 McIntire Road, Room 345
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Phone: 434-972-4055

Email: cthompson@k12albemarle.org

Karen Combs

Earlysville, VA 22936

14238336456

karencombs6522@gmail.com

October 11, 2023

County of Albemarle

RE: School Board Member

Dear School Board Members,

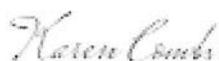
I was motivated to contact you upon learning that County of Albemarle has an opening for a new School Board Member, and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Attached is my resume. You will notice that my experience is more towards the planning aspect and not directly in education. I believe that my experiences will bring a prospective to this Board that will enhance the leadership of this community.

My Planning degree combined with training and experience has provided me with a great foundation of knowledge and skills. I learn new processes quickly and I'm good at process improvements, goal setting and program implementation. I have a resourceful approach to problem-solving, tackling challenges head-on and I consider obstacles learning experiences. I'm a people person with high energy and a lot of ambition to succeed.

Thank you for your time. It would be a pleasure to speak with you and discuss this opportunity with County of Albemarle. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Karen Combs



karencombs6522@gmail.com

14238336456

Earlsville, VA 22936

Skills

- Project Planning
- Program Evaluation
- Commission Structures
- Data Analysis
- Idea Development and Brainstorming
- Issue Research
- Logistics Coordination
- Disaster Recovery Planning
- Time Management
- Problem Resolution

Education And Training

12/1996

Bachelor Of Science:

Urban Planning

East Tennessee State University

Johnson City, TN

Karen Combs

Summary

Dependable Planner with track record of success in field, attention to detail and proactive mindset. Seeks opportunities to improve processes and workflows for team benefit. Conscientious, hardworking and excels at multitasking in fast-paced environments. Motivated professional offering Planning experience that adds value to any organization in need of great collaboration, interpersonal and multitasking abilities. Meets tight deadlines.

Experience

City Of Kingsport - Principal Planner

Kingsport, TN

04/1997 - 11/2014

- Developed and implemented long-term plans for land use and zoning.
- Analyzed demographic data to develop effective strategies for urban planning projects.
- Coordinated with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure compliance with regulations.
- Researched best practices in urban planning and made recommendations for improvement.
- Initiated public engagement processes to solicit input from stakeholders on planning initiatives.
- Created reports, presentations, and other documents related to urban planning efforts.
- Conducted field visits to assess existing conditions of sites under consideration for development projects.
- Provided technical advice on the design of proposed projects based on applicable codes and regulations.
- Facilitated meetings between developers, community members, and elected officials regarding potential developments.
- Drafted ordinances related to land use changes and presented them before City Councils.
- Collaborated with architects, engineers, contractors, surveyors, attorneys, economists, and other professionals involved in urban planning activities.
- Identified opportunities for improving efficiency of operations through process reengineering or technology solutions.
- Assisted in the preparation of grant proposals to secure funds for various urban planning initiatives.
- Led teams responsible for collecting data needed to develop comprehensive plans.
- Reviewed site plans submitted by developers prior to approval by local authorities.
- Organized public hearings related to new zoning ordinances or amendments.
- Coached junior staff members in the principles of urban planning theory and

practice.

- Participated in professional organizations dedicated to advancing city planning initiatives.
- Identified areas for improvement, narrowing focus for decision-makers in making necessary changes.
- Set specific goals for projects to measure progress and evaluate end results.
- Utilized document management system to organize company files, keeping up-to-date and easily accessible data.
- Implemented strategies to take advantage of new opportunities.
- Oversaw quality control to identify inconsistencies and malfunctions.
- Created plans to propose solutions to problems related to efficiency, costs or profits.
- Tracked project schedules and encouraged teams to complete tasks on time while staying on budget.
- Organized client meetings to provide project updates.

City Of Kingsport - Senior Transportation Planner

Kingsport, TN

04/1997 - 11/2014

- Developed and implemented transportation plans to improve system performance and efficiency.
- Analyzed traffic data, collected field observations, and identified potential solutions to address congestion issues.
- Conducted meetings with stakeholders to discuss project objectives, scope of work, timeline, budget, and deliverables.
- Prepared technical reports summarizing existing conditions, alternatives analysis, recommendations for improvement projects.
- Assisted in the development of long-range transportation plans for metropolitan areas.
- Reviewed environmental documents including Environmental Impact Reports and Environmental Assessments.
- Researched best practices from other cities related to transportation planning initiatives.
- Collaborated with local agencies such as Caltrans, public works departments, transit operators., to develop regional solutions that meet the needs of all stakeholders.
- Presented findings at public hearings and workshops designed to inform citizens about upcoming projects.
- Coordinated with engineering consultants regarding design specifications for roadway improvements.
- Performed GIS mapping activities to visualize proposed changes in a geographic context.
- Identified alternative funding sources such as grants or private investments to support implementation efforts.
- Attended conferences related to new technologies or techniques used in transportation planning.
- Drafted resolutions for City Council approval related to land use changes affecting transportation networks.
- Provided input into the development of regional policies governing the use of streetscapes by pedestrians or cyclists.

- Reviewed planning studies, reports and presentations for consultants.
- Prepared board memoranda and official authority correspondence to present to board and management.

City Of Kingsport - Public Works Planner

Kingsport, TN

04/1997 - 11/2014

- Developed comprehensive plans for resource allocation and project management.
- Monitored project progress and adjusted plans as needed to meet goals on time and within budget.
- Conducted research on new methods of planning and implementation techniques.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to determine project requirements, scope, timeline, deliverables, resources required, and cost estimates.
- Assisted in developing strategic plans for long-term initiatives while managing short-term tasks simultaneously.
- Provided recommendations on how to increase efficiency by streamlining processes or introducing new tools or technology.
- Coordinated meetings between teams, departments to discuss project updates, status.
- Managed timelines for completion of tasks assigned by upper management.
- Facilitated discussions between teams and departments about potential roadblocks that could impact project success.
- Assessed potential vendors based on qualifications and experience before awarding contracts.
- Led brainstorming sessions with cross-functional teams to generate ideas for improving existing systems and processes.
- Utilized database and other tools to manage, track and forecast event jobs.
- Scheduled supply of materials, meeting production schedules and minimum safety stock levels.
- Partnered with suppliers, buyers, schedulers, shipping and receiving, quality and production teams to promote timely delivery, availability and production usage of materials for optimal production.
- Produced maps and diagrams using GIS for use in planning and implementation.
- Analyzed alternatives to evaluate impacts and benefits of projects and make recommendations.
- Applied planning strategies using tools to manipulate data, assess scenarios and perform project analysis.
- Worked with stakeholders to develop agenda, presentations and content for events and conferences.
- Created program activities, agendas and budgets based on city requirements.

Accomplishments

- Traveled to South Sudan as a Planner to plan the second largest city from scratch in 2011. Trained and developed a Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances.
- Worked with Housing Authority to develop a new neighborhood that created opportunities for first time homeowners
- Developed ordinances that created a village type development where seniors

could live independently; combining independent living with nursing homes so that individuals could stay in the neighborhood throughout their lives.

- Worked with Governor's Office to extend Interstate 26 from North Carolina to Virginia providing the City of Kingsport more transportation opportunities that allowed the recruitment of businesses to Kingsport.
- Worked with FEMA and TEMA during a disaster recovery of major storm. Designing and implementing clean-up routes.
- Designed and implemented new routes for garbage, trash and snow removal to improve efficiencies in services provided to the public.