

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

[www.ci.norfolk.ne.us](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us)

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## “Serving on City Boards” by Beth Deck



As the clerk for the City of Norfolk, I have the privilege of working with those who serve on city advisory boards or commissions. Members of these boards develop recommendations and present supporting information to the City Council. We are fortunate to have people in the community who are willing to contribute their time and efforts to these volunteer positions.

Although we have had many people in the past step up to work on these boards there is an ongoing need for more residents to apply for these positions. Each board has an issue, policy and/or program focus, and appointees generally represent certain communities of interest. The city council relies on these groups to advise them on a wide range of issues affecting their constituencies and to assure they are responsive to community needs.

Applicants who want to be involved in city government and would be interested in serving on a board are encouraged to draw on their past and current experiences and interests to match them with a particular board or

commission. Some of the current boards in the City of Norfolk that people might be interested in serving on are: Board of Zoning Adjustment; Building Code of Appeals/Property Maintenance Board of Appeals; Civil Service Commission; Edward I Vrzal Award Committee; Housing Authority; Library Advisory; Planning Commission; Plumbing Board; Property Tax Compliance Review; Tree Advisory; and Vehicle Parking District.

A short application is required from individuals who want to serve on a board. The mayor reviews these applications and then consults with current committee chairs and council members regarding committee requirements. The mayor will then make recommendations of board appointments to the city council. These appointments must be confirmed by a majority vote of the council.

Commissions, committees, and boards use common rules for discussion and voting but each has a different role within the city organization. Term lengths and limits vary with different boards. Some may meet monthly or bimonthly. Attendance is required at most board meetings and citizens may want to take careful thought before applying as to the time commitment these positions require.

Those people who are very interested in what is going on in the area of housing or who have a background in plumbing may want to apply to be on the Housing Authority or the Plumbing Board. Civic minded individuals may want to apply to be on the Edward I Vrzal Award committee. Those who belong on these boards and commissions will not only assist the city council but get to know others in the city who are likeminded in their desire to make Norfolk a better place to live and raise families.

Applications to these boards are available at the city offices, 127 North 1st Street. They can also be accessed on the city website at [http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/administration/Forms/Board\\_and\\_Committee\\_Applications.pdf](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/administration/Forms/Board_and_Committee_Applications.pdf)