

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW  
AGENDA  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 11, 2016  
5:30 P.M.**

1. PLANNING COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

5:30 P.M. – STEVE SOLOMONSON

5:50 P.M. – ABRAHAM WOLFE

6:10 P.M. – PAT SCHUMER

2. OTHER ISSUES

3. ADJOURNMENT

**City of Shoreview  
Citizen Advisory Committees and Commissions**

**Name:** Steven Solomonson

**Address:** 4799 Kent St. Shoreview, MN 55126

**Home phone number:** 651 490 5143 **Work:** 651 733 3364 **Cell:** 651 485 3974

**How long have you lived in the City of Shoreview?** 25 years (*moved to Shoreview November 1991*)

Is there any reason that you would be unable to attend meetings on a regular basis?

Yes       No

**On what committees or commissions are you interested in serving?**

On which committee or commission are you interested in serving?

- Bikeways and Trailways Committee
- Economic Development Commission
- Environmental Quality Committee
- Grass Lake Watershed Management Organization
- Human Rights Commission
- Lake Regulations Commission
- Park and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission**
- Public Safety Committee
- Snail Lake Improvement District Board
- Telecommunications and Technology Committee

**What are your specific areas of interest within this committee's or commission's scope of responsibilities?**

The planning commission is an advisory commission to the city council with specific responsibilities of planning, updating the comprehensive plan for the city, variances, modifying the municipal code and making recommendations. The comprehensive plan is an expression of the vision of the community for future growth and development. The specific areas of interest that I have in the commission's responsibilities are to participate in the vision that directs the future growth and development of the city. My interest is to maintain the quality of life that Shoreview currently has. This can be done by participating in the updating of the comprehensive plan, hearing proposals for redevelopment, and acting on variance requests to name a few. Finally, an important

need and area of interest is the changes needed to address an aging community and to attract young families.

**2. Briefly describe your work experience or other background information that would relate to this committee**

**Work Experience**

I received my B.S degree from the University of Minnesota in Material Science and Engineering in 1985 and received my master's degree from the University of St. Thomas in Manufacturing Systems and Engineering in 1993. I am currently employed as a Lead Product Development Specialist at 3M Company in St. Paul. I have worked there for 28 years. My major responsibilities over the past 28 years have been to develop products in the laboratory and scale them up to manufacturing. I have had several successful product scale-ups and launches. In the last 13 years, my responsibilities have also included leading teams.

My education, training and work experience have given me opportunities to lead diverse cross functional teams and to solve complex problems. Team related training includes project management, project leadership, team building, and conflict resolution. The leadership courses have given me valuable experience in goal setting, motivation techniques, team building, and conflict resolution. The leadership opportunities have shown me the importance of listening and working with people.

**Mentorship**

I have mentored several students and young engineers and enjoy working with people. I am currently mentoring five people.

**Shoreview Sister City**

My wife and I hosted three exchange students from Zawiercie Poland through the Shoreview sister city association. It was a wonderful experience and we still keep in touch.

**Shoreview Planning Commissioner**

I was appointed to the Shoreview planning commission in February of 2004. I have 12 years experience on the planning commission including four years as chairman (2012-present). During this time, I have gained valuable experience with Shoreview's comprehensive guide plan, municipal codes and ordinances. The planning commission has also given me the opportunity to work with city staff, work and interact with other commissions, talk to applicants, and to have open discussions on proposals leading to consensus in most cases.

I attended four land use planning workshops offered by the University of Minnesota on planning and zoning and roles as a planning commissioner. In 2007 I was appointed to the Hwy 49 task force as a citizen member to help with the design of Hwy 49. I took two

classes in 2011: advanced zoning and lake shore management. I was appointed to the GLWMO in 2011 to help determine 10 year plan and to make a recommendation about mergers.

Appointed to Planning commission Feb 2004  
Your role as a planning commissioner U of M 2006  
Planning and zoning U of M ~2006  
Hwy 49 task force member: 2007  
Advanced zoning 2011  
Lake shore management course 2011  
GLWMO task force member 2011  
Planning Commission Chair 2012-2015  
Ecumen "Community for the Aging Workshop" 2012  
Highway corridor transition study discussion 2014

**Why would you like to serve on this committee or commission?**

All of my life I have enjoyed helping people. My greatest assets are passion for public service, honesty, trust, empathy, fairness, problem solving skills, and good listening skills. I try to keep an open mind on all issues and attempt to compromise when possible and will take unpopular positions if need be.

My reason for wanting to serve on the Shoreview Planning Commission is to preserve the quality of life that Shoreview currently enjoys. Preserving quality of life means a lot of things: low crime, reasonable taxes, providing good public services, maintaining trails and open space, ensuring good water quality and quality of lakes, good public safety, maintaining neighborhoods, and enforcing codes to name a few. The most important things that should be protected are the bike trails, open space, parks, and quality of lakes. People are very satisfied with Shoreview. The key is to make changes for the future without impacting quality of life and resident satisfaction. Shoreview is mostly developed and the biggest challenge facing the city is in-fill and redevelopment. We have revisited some of our codes to address this, but I feel that further tweaks or discussions are necessary. I would also like to preserve the character of neighborhoods as much as possible during redevelopment and encourage homeowners to invest in their properties. I realize that change is inevitable in most cases. In order to continue to be a star city, I realize that unpopular decisions have to be made to keep our city vibrant and attractive. That is the biggest challenge going forward: finding the right balance of density, business opportunities, building heights and transitions and open space that make our community a desirable place to live and to locate a business.

Business climate and jobs are important to any city. An additional challenge is to attract and keep business in Shoreview. A balance has to be made between neighborhoods, open spaces, parks and business to maintain Shoreview's quality of life.

## **Additional Comments**

I have enjoyed my 12 years on the planning commission and have admired the commitment and professionalism of the cities staff and elected officials. It has been a pleasure to serve in this environment.

The skills that I feel are important to a planning commissioner are honesty, trust, fairness, ability to delegate to commissions and staff, trust, empathy (depending on the situation), good listening skills, time, commitment, patience, courtesy, and a love for the city and its citizens.

It is very difficult to make everyone happy when proposals are submitted. The most important thing is for citizens to believe that the planning commissioners are honest, fair, and open minded about proposals. Ultimately a decision has to be made and the conduct and attitude of planning commission during the decision process is key for the citizens believing their opinions count and the process is fair. It is very important for the citizens to believe that they can make a difference in the process, and that their concerns are being listened to, respected, and acknowledged. In the end, it is important for citizens to believe the process is fair, honest and attempts to find the best solution for the city even if people don't get everything they want.

I have had the opportunity over the last 12 years to use the skills that I feel are important to be a good planning commissioner. I have also enjoyed being chairman for the last four years and feel that the planning commission has enjoyed a harmony during that time and worked very well together. I have strived to get participation from everyone and all comments are respected. The planning commission has been fair, patient, and collaborative in dealing with proposals. In most cases a consensus is reached. However, on several occasions, consensus was not possible and the differing opinions were respected.

\*If appointed to a committee or commission, may we include your phone number(s) in the committee/commission handbook?

Yes     No

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**Applicant**

**Planning Commission  
Interview Questions**

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Planning Commission?
2. What specific knowledge and experience would you bring to the Planning Commission?
3. In your opinion from a planning and zoning perspective, what has been done well and what could be improved in our community?
4. As a member of the Planning Commission, how would you balance neighborhood concerns with overall community goals?
5. Do you see the need for redevelopment in certain areas in Shoreview?  
(IF YES, please give us examples and how you would like to see the property redeveloped.)

6. How flexible do you think the City should be when dealing with variances or requests for deviations to the code?

7. Do you have any questions of us?



**Citizen Advisory Committees and Commissions  
Application Form**

Name Abraham J. Wolfe

Address 733 Mercury Dr W

Shoreview, MN 55126

\*Home phone number 952-240-1884 \*Work phone number 763-531-0300

E-mail abeandsarahwolfe@gmail.com

How long have you lived in the City of Shoreview? 8 years

Is there any reason that you would be unable to attend regular monthly meetings?

Yes  No

If yes, please explain:

The City of Shoreview currently has several volunteer committees and commissions.

- Bike and Trails Committee
- Economic Development Authority \*
- Economic Development Commission\*
- Environmental Quality Committee
- Human Rights Commission
- Lake Regulations Commission
- Park and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Public Safety Committee

\* Persons who work in, own, or operate a business within City are eligible to serve on EDA and EDC

Please indicate your preferences on which committee or commission you are interested in serving:

1. Planning Commission
2. Public Safety Committee
3. Park and Recreation Commission

1. What are your specific areas of interest within this committee's or commission's scope of responsibilities?

I have many interests within all three listed above. I love seeing land get developed in a natural or general improved ways that allows Shoreview to shine. My previous experience with law enforcement and being a reserve / 1st responder allows me to see the great opportunity to help bridge understanding of needs and problems that may be presented. Lastly, parks and recreation are a huge key to how families and our community members plan their events, meetings, and health and wellness. All three would be a great opportunity to improve our community.

2. Briefly describe your work experience or other background information that would relate to this committee.

I have been a warehouse distributor, retail, jewelry repair, financial advisor, banker, law enforcement reserve officer, and hobbyist grape grower, and many other things. I am very good at putting together complex plans and completing the task at hand in everything I do. The experiences in my life have given me the opportunity to work with all types of people, personalities, and backgrounds. Which allows me to learn and work with most everyone as a team and lead when needed.

3. Please list other organizations or clubs that you have participated in.

I have been a part of Minnesota Grape Growers Association, Bayport Police Department Reserve program and ECC youth in the recent years.

4. Why would you like to serve on this committee or commission?

I have learned and become a great leader in many different ways and I would like to use my talents I have and also learn from other leaders within my community. My young children are getting older and I personally need something to be a part of that I can put my efforts and passions into. Another great reason is that I am right in the middle of generation X and the millennial generation. The gap allows me to see what has been, what is present, and what may be needed in views, understanding, and the expectations of the future community members.

Additional Comments:

If appointed to a committee or commission, may we include your phone number(s) in the committee/commission handbook?

Yes  No

Abraham J. Wolfe

11/25/2015

Signature

Date

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**Applicant**

**Planning Commission  
Interview Questions**

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6. How flexible do you think the City should be when dealing with variances or requests for deviations to the code?

7. Do you have any questions of us?



**Citizen Advisory Committees and Commissions  
Application Form**

Name pat Schumer

Address 1510 Pinewood Drive

Shoreview

\*Home phone number 651-786-6998 \*Work phone number 651-247-2025

E-mail officiatingguy@hotmail.com

How long have you lived in the City of Shoreview? 22 years

Is there any reason that you would be unable to attend regular monthly meetings?

Yes  No

If yes, please explain:

The City of Shoreview currently has several volunteer committees and commissions.

- Bike and Trails Committee
- Economic Development Authority \*
- Economic Development Commission\*
- Environmental Quality Committee
- Human Rights Commission
- Lake Regulations Commission
- Park and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Public Safety Committee

\* Persons who work in, own, or operate a business within City are eligible to serve on EDA and EDC

Please indicate your preferences on which committee or commission you are interested in serving:

1. Planning Commission
2. Planning Commission
3. Park and Recreation Commission

1. What are your specific areas of interest within this committee's or commission's scope of responsibilities?

Development within the city of Shoreview.

2. Briefly describe your work experience or other background information that would relate to this committee.

I have served as a planning commissioner for the past 11 years.

3. Please list other organizations or clubs that you have participated in.

Park and Recreation committee for 8 years prior to that.

4. Why would you like to serve on this committee or commission?

I enjoy working on this committee and feel that I keep it at the citizens level. I don't have the knowledge that a Steve Solomonson or Brian McCool has, but I feel that I am the down to earth presence that the Commission needs.

Additional Comments:

If appointed to a committee or commission, may we include your phone number(s) in the committee/commission handbook?

Yes     No



Signature

9-22-15

Date

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**Applicant**

**Planning Commission  
Interview Questions**

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