

Jack Igelman
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September 2, 2022

Dear Honorable Commission Members,

Please accept this letter as an application for an open seat on the City of Asheville's Multimodal Transportation Commission. I am a three decade resident of Asheville and a full-time economics faculty at Warren Wilson College. I also bring the perspective of an outdoor enthusiast, community leader, and part owner of a local retail business.

I believe that citizens of our city should be able to move safely, reliably, and efficiently by bike, on foot, by public transportation and personal vehicles. I'm invested in working with policy makers that will expand and improve the scope, scale and urgency of building streets, bike lanes, greenways, highways, and parks that will work for all modes of transportation. I see an efficient, safe, and connected transportation network as a meaningful path to creating a more equitable city for all residents.

I am a founding trustee of the Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway, serving as president for six years and currently as vice president. I'm especially proud of our work in stewarding the popular Hominy Creek Greenway. While our work is focused on the park's $\frac{2}{3}$ mile greenway and 14 acres of greenspace, I've approached our advocacy within a greater context of serving all residents throughout the city and county. Currently I'm coordinating a \$100,000 development campaign to redesign and resurface the trail.

As the leader of a grassroots public good organization, I understand the challenges communities, businesses, non-profits, and government face in delivering meaningful improvements and changes to our urban infrastructure. If chosen, I would bring to the committee a pragmatic approach to the development of public goods influenced by my work as an economist and public space advocate. I understand the importance of the stakeholders in public projects as well as the constraints that force difficult choices. I believe I will add another thoughtful and analytical voice to creating policies and recommendations.

As a community leader I'm persistent, collaborative, and well informed about the challenges the city faces in forming a more integrated and comprehensive transportations system. As a member of the commission, I'd value the platform in which I can advocate for community groups, organizations, and residents to engage and have a meaningful role in improving elements of infrastructure, such as greenways, in their neighborhoods. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the possibility of serving Asheville's residents and communities.

Very sincerely, Jack Igelman

JACK IGELMAN

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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Graduate Certificate in Technology and Communication 2018

School of Media and Journalism

Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

M.S. in Applied Economics 1992

Professional paper: "Patterns of Political Pressure: Corporate PACs and Profits"

Clemson University

B.A. in Economics 1991

Minor: History

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC

Full-time Economics Faculty 2022 - Present

Courses taught: survey of economics, environmental and ecological economics, economics of climate change, economic of inequality

Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock, NC

Full-time Economics Faculty 2008 - 2022

Blue Ridge Community College

First-year experience course chair 2019 - 2022

Blue Ridge Community College

Cuba study abroad coordinator 2018 - 2019

Developed and facilitate a study abroad trip to Cuba during spring break examining entrepreneurship and developing markets

University of North Carolina, Asheville

Adjunct Faculty 2018 - 2019

Courses taught: principles of economics

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

Adjunct Faculty 2014 - 2015

Courses taught: principles of economics

Cleveland Community College, Shelby, NC

Full-time Faculty 2004 - 2008

Courses taught: principles of economics & principles of management

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Salisbury, NC

Adjunct Faculty 1992 - 1993

Courses taught: principles of economics & business statistics

North Carolina Outward Bound School, NC

1998-2003

MEDIA EXPERIENCE

Contributing Reporter 2011 - Present

Carolina Public Press, Asheville, NC

Contributing Writer 2008 - Present

WNC Magazine, Asheville, NC

Freelance Writer 2000 - Present

Write articles for a wide range of magazines and other publications

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Founding Partner 2004 - Present

Second Gear, Inc., Asheville, NC

Second Gear is a retail store in Asheville with \$1m in annual revenue

Founding Trustee and Treasurer 2016 - 2019

Asheville Black Bears Baseball Club

Funding trustee and coach of a non-profit travel baseball organization

Founding Trustee and President 2011 - 2017; VP 2021 - Present

Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway, Inc., Asheville, NC

Founding trustee of a community group managing a 14 acre public nature preserve

Founding Member 2017

Falconhurst Nature Preserve Steering Committee, Asheville, NC

Founding member of a community group managing a 9 acre public nature preserve

AWARDS, GRANTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grantee

Pulitzer Center Connected Coastline, 2021

5 part series on the impact of climate change on coastal fisheries in NC, published in Carolina Public Press

Panelist

Environmental Journalism in NC, NC Humanities Council 2021

North Carolina Press Association 2018

1st place, Best Feature Reporting

2nd place, News Feature Writing

Nominated for NCCCS Excellence in Teaching Award 2018

North Carolina Community College System

Dr and Mrs. William D. Killian Outstanding Teacher Award 2018

Blue Ridge Community College

Awarded Outstanding Environmental Reporting 2015 & 2016

Western North Carolina chapter of the Sierra Club

Nominee: Outstanding Journalist, Roosevelt-Ashe Conservation Award 2014

Recognized for reporting on U.S. National Forest plan revision in Western North Carolina

Diploma in Super Sports Achievement 1993

Air Boingo Bungee Jumping