



## APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #2 POSITION

### Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Anne Stevenson

Residence Address 707 Collegewood Street, Ypsilanti 48197

Home Phone [REDACTED] Work Phone [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

### Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

### Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

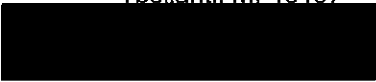
Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2018.**

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Frances McMullan, City Clerk  
City of Ypsilanti  
One South Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Anne Stevenson  
707 Collegewood St  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



November 20, 2019

Frances McMullan  
City Clerk  
City of Ypsilanti  
1 South Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Ms. McMullan,

Please accept my application for the position of Council Member for Ward 2. My attached resume and my answers to the supplemental questions demonstrate that I have a wide range of educational and experiential qualities that would make me a good fit for this position. I have worked for over a decade in the nonprofit sector; working in strategic development, program management, volunteer coordination and event planning. Serving nearly 10 years as Commissioner or Chair of the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission, as well as a member of the Steering Committee for the Ypsilanti City's Master Plan, has given me experience working with the residents of Ypsilanti, understanding City procedures and policies, and has illuminated some of the concerns that we face as a community.

During my Masters program in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University, I studied heritage interpretation and grass-roots advocacy, and gained an understanding of funding and preservation practices utilizing a collaboration with multidisciplinary constituents. I possess strong personal qualities that make me an effective leader, able to work well with a team. I am also self-motivated and able to work individually to meet tight deadlines. My ability to look at every possible angle of a situation and step out-of-the-box, in order to find new solutions would be an asset to the City Council. I am able to work with a variety of personalities and can quickly adapt to new situations. I am open and patient and try always to keep a level head when presented with obstacles.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon. In the meantime, I am available to answer any questions you or the City Council may have.

Sincerely,

Anne Stevenson



## Anne E. Stevenson

707 Collegewood St  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197



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### EDUCATION/TRAINING

2016. Certified Program Planner, Learning Resources Network  
2011. Honors M.S. in Historic Preservation  
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan  
2010. Master Gardener Volunteer Program - MSU Extension  
1998. Honors B.F.A in Theater Design and Production  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

### Expertise

Program Development, Public Engagement, Academia, Community Outreach, Operations and Scheduling, Heritage Interpretation, Program Contact and Curriculum, Marketing, Strategic Planning, Volunteer Management, Social Media, Board Development, Volunteer Training, Creating and Leading Workshops, Grant Writing and Development.

### Work Experience

Nov. 2012 - present Program Development Manager, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor.

- ❖ Responsible for over a hundred classes in Community Enrichment and Workforce Development.
- ❖ Assists in the development of curriculum, creates and maintains all scheduling, and manages and hires over twenty instructors, both as WCC hires as well as through contract training.
- ❖ Supervises marketing and advertising both in print form and social media.
- ❖ Conducts program analysis and strategic planning for course development and needs assessment.

2009-2012 Curator and Director of Development, Michigan Firehouse Museum, Ypsilanti, MI.

- ❖ Worked on grant proposals to help pay for educational programming, including the MotorCities Community Grant.
- ❖ Developed proposals for new children's exhibit area to be created in conjunction with the University of Michigan.
- ❖ Spearheaded strategic planning and evaluation processes for mission statement and museum organizational procedures.

## Volunteer Leadership and Service

2014 - 2017 Midwest Membership Recruitment Director. Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., Milpitas, California (Midwest Chapter)

- ❖ Organizes, educates, and assists over thirty local chapter directors on volunteer recruitment and retention "best practices."
- ❖ Assists with volunteer training, orientation, community outreach, and continued membership retention policies.
- ❖ Develops and disseminates marketing materials to recruit new volunteers.
- ❖ Teaches bi-monthly workshops on volunteer recruitment and retention across the Midwest.

2009 - p. Historic District Commissioner/Chair, City of Ypsilanti, MI.

- ❖ Serves the City of Ypsilanti as an appointed Commissioner to interpret and uphold the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation as they pertain to property work within the Ypsilanti Historic District.

2009 - 2010 Historic District Commission Assistant

- ❖ Assists the Commission with property work applications, Section 106 review and resolutions, interacts with public and property owners, maintains Commission records, records meeting minutes and agendas, updates HDC website and assists in all other historic preservation projects.
- ❖ Established and organized monthly HDC workshops to provide homeowners with preservation materials and resources.

2010-2014 Regional Media Relations Officer, Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., Milpitas, California (Midwest Chapter)

- ❖ Media representative for Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and parts of Kentucky.
- ❖ Assists with the enforcement and dissemination of the media relations policies for the organization and helps to work with the media and internet resources

## MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Ypsilanti Historical Society	2007-2012
National Trust for Historic Preservation	2008-present
Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Chair of Education Committee	2009-2012
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation	2010-2011
Kempf House Museum, Volunteer Coordinator/President	2013- 2016
Master Gardener, Washtenaw County	2014 - present
Michigan Folk School, Director	present

## **City Council Application**

**Anne Stevenson**

### **Supplemental Questions**

**1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Council Member?**

As a long-time resident of Ypsilanti, I am committed to seeing the City continue to grow and thrive. Ypsilanti City Council plays a major role in determining the future path of the city. Being a collaboratively-minded person, I believe in the power of community members coming together to work toward common goals. I am proud to be a part of this diverse community and would be honored to serve as one of its leaders to ensure Ypsilanti continues on its positive journey.

**2. What strength would you bring to the Council?**

As an active leader, I strive to better understand the community I serve and look for ways to empower others. In my position as Program Development Manager at Washtenaw Community College, I conduct needs assessments to better understand the demands and interests of my customers. For City Council, I would use the same process to determine the needs of constituents through open forums, focus groups, surveys and most importantly, face-to-face interactions. It is important to be accessible and to listen carefully to people to determine what the overarching issues are.

Through my experience in volunteer management and engagement, I've learned that effective leadership makes people feel valued and excited to be involved within their communities. It is important to look for ways to bring people together and to work collaboratively. I often find that if I jump in and am enthusiastically involved on a project, others will follow.

**3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?**

#### **Housing**

Housing in Ypsilanti, and in particular, affordable housing, is one of the top issues that I believe City Council needs to continue to focus on. At the moment there are several areas that contribute to the problems we are facing; a limited tax base within the City, a large senior community which requires opportunities for aging-in-place, and a low amount of overall housing stock where rental spaces have been almost entirely taken. This has caused owners of rental properties to increase their rents. In addition, property taxes continue to be one of the highest in the State of Michigan and some residents have become more concerned about being "taxed" out of the City. Finally, discussions about new zoning changes have sometimes been met with resistance by traditionally single-family home neighborhoods.

It is possible that looking for ways to increase the overall housing stock would help. New construction for residential and commercial properties could help increase the density in these areas and should be investigated. Mix-use construction that has been used in surrounding cities may also be an option. I believe that changes in the zoning ordinance should continue to be studied as ways to create a variety of living and working spaces in traditionally single-family home neighborhoods. Once there is an increase in housing stock, I would also then research more homeowner or rental incentive programs, such as the LiveYpsi Homebuyer Assistance Program, or other possible work-in-place strategies.

### **Economic and Community Development**

During the fifteen years I've lived in Ypsilanti, I have seen great strides in the area of Economic and Community Development. This issue is ongoing and should always be a focus for City Council.

I see the need to continue to encourage and develop small businesses, small manufacturing, renewable energies and a creative economy. These are just some of the things that are making Ypsilanti unique. Paving the way to make it easier for these types of activities and businesses to come in our direction is vital. I would like to be at the table with some of the collaborative businesses and business generators to hear more about what can be done to encourage them. Some of this creative economy is already coming out of Spark Business, The DDA, Landline Creative Labs, and Creative Chambers. I would also research more ways we can encourage pop-up activities and business, as well as some zoning changes that might make it easier for Cottage Food industries or businesses to be run out of the home. Certainly I wish to help facilitate more discussion on the commuter rail stop in Depot Town.

### **Communication**

Instituting improved methods of communication needs to be a top priority. A lack of media in our area makes it difficult for information to be quickly and correctly disseminated. The use of social media has its place, but often I find that information does not get presented correctly through this medium. I think the preliminary work by our Mayor serves as a great starting place to help with information dispersal. As a member of City Council, I would help to facilitate this same type of system within my ward, working with Jennifer Symens to do so. I also would like to see improved communication with staff and cross-commissions - finding ways to get all City constituents to talk with one another.

#### **4. Current and past community involvement - and relevance to City Council.**

I have served on the Historic District Commission since 2009, first as a staff member as a joint position between the City of Ypsilanti and Eastern Michigan University, and then as a Commissioner. I served as Chair of the Commission for four years, and am still a member. When I first started, I felt it was important to increase communication and understanding between the commission and property owners. I organized several

workshops which provided property owners with a basic understanding of historic preservations, opportunities to meet commissioners and access to other important information. These workshops were continued for several years after.

In 2013, I served on the Shape Ypsilanti Steering Committee for the creation of the City's Master Plan, which is still utilized for decision-making today.

Additionally, I have served as the President of College Heights Neighborhood Association over the last two years. I have also served on the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board, the Advisory Committee for the Ypsilanti Historical Society, the Ypsilanti Freighthouse and currently serve on the Michigan Folk School board.

**5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Council Member?**

It is my hope that during my term I would be fully engaged with my constituents, with other members of City Council, and with the Mayor to be able to work together to solve problems, increase communication and find ways to better listen to the residents of the City.

**6. What is your vision for our City and community?**

Ypsilanti has worked very hard toward being an inclusive and active community. My vision is to find more ways to make people feel welcome, by providing opportunities for members of the public to get involved with both civic and cultural activities, by letting their voices be heard, and by being the conduit that gets groups talking to one another. By bringing people and groups together, I hope to facilitate converting ideas into action. In addition, I would like to increase tourism and civic pride so that we can welcome even more residents and visitors into our city.

**7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?**

I have lived in College Heights neighborhood since 2005, along with my husband and daughter, who just started at Eastern Michigan University in the Simulation, Animation and Gaming program. We have thought about moving in the past, but cannot find anywhere that we love as much as Ypsilanti. Besides my employment at Washtenaw Community College and my work on the Historic District Commission, I play cello, sew, and am a Master Gardener.