Volunteers Needed for City Boards and Commissions

The City of Springfield is seeking new citizen volunteers to serve on a variety of boards and commissions that help guide City policy and procedures. There are more than 240 volunteers on nearly 30 standing boards and commissions in Springfield. These groups are vital to City operations, and in many cases are mandated by the City Charter.

Recently, a handful of resignations coupled with numerous citizens already serving on one-time committees and task forces have created a gap between the number of qualified applicants and the number of open seats on the City’s boards. The most immediate needs are on the following boards or commissions:

- Planning & Zoning Commission — Holds public hearings and makes recommendations on a variety of issues, including amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, rezoning applications, preliminary plats, public property acquisitions and disposals, and more.
- Personnel Board — Advises the City concerning personnel administration, approves merit system rules and hears appeals on disciplinary actions.
- Public Building Corporation — Not-for-profit corporation formed to assist in providing alternative means to finance various City projects.
- Public Housing Authority — Provides housing for people of low income.
- Industrial Development Authority — Develops commercial, industrial, agricultural or manufacturing facilities in the City and also issues revenue bonds for industrial projects.

The City of Springfield is always looking for volunteers to serve on these and other boards and commissions. Openings on these boards come up on a regular basis due to terms ending, term limits and occasional resignations. More than 40 regularly scheduled openings will occur in 2011.

Citizens interested in volunteering can specify which board or commission they are most interested in, though they are not required to do so. The City Clerk’s Office keeps applications on file to present to City Council as openings occur. In most cases, City Council finalizes appointments following a review of applications by the Council’s Public Involvement Committee. Terms typically range from one to three years, and City residency is required in some cases.

For more background on specific boards and commissions, visit the City’s website at http://mo-springfield.civicplus.com/723/Boards-Commissions. Citizens will also find online applications and an ethics handbook on this page. Those who wish to apply in person may do so at the City Clerk’s Office in the fourth floor of the Busch Building, 840 Boonville Ave., between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays.

Citizen questions can be directed to the City Clerk’s Office at (417) 864-1650 or via e-mail at bcirtin@springfieldmo.gov.

For more information, contact: City Clerk Brenda Cirtin, (417) 864-1650.