

WINDOM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Candidate Answers to Questions:

- Home address
- Why are you interested in serving on the Board?
- What experience and expertise do you bring to the Board?
- How would you help the Board increase its outreach to neighborhood residents?

Becky McIntosh (Incumbent)

5404 Wentworth Ave (I have lived here nine years in the house my family has owned since I was in the third grade at Windom)

I am interested in continuing to serve the Windom neighborhood as a board member. I have been on the board for eight years and have served as treasurer for most of that time. The city has made significant changes in expectations for all neighborhood associations in recent years that I feel have strengthened the WCC as a small nonprofit organization, and strongly focused our efforts on reaching more of neighborhood residents that haven't traditionally been engaged with WCC (with particular emphasis on renters).

I retired from the city and have had extensive experience in City administration and finance, which significantly helped WCC during the recent years of transition. This past summer/fall I participated for the first time in door knocking along the blocks by my house. It was a pleasure to meet so many neighbors and gather information on community assets and needs/concerns that are informing the WCC priorities for community action. Thank you for your support of the WCC.

Patricia Soulak (Incumbent)

5636 Stevens Ave. South and a resident of this address for 45 years.

I have been an active member of the Windom Community Council since 1999-so have 24 years of service. I have served several times as President, Vice President and been on the Events Committee active in organizing the Windom Fall Festival, Windom Tot's Rock, Windom Reads, Harvest Moon Dance, 1st Windom Garden Walking Tour. I have ensured the continued relationship between Windom School, Park and Council by implementing Windom Reads 13 years ago as a member of the Windom Shared Use Committee. I have also been in the Nicollet Avenue Renovation Plan in 1999-2000, the Lyndale Avenue Street Renovation Community Committee (LASRCC) in 1999-2001. I was also engaged with getting Windom businesses to advertise on our quarterly WCC newsletter with advertising income totaling \$2,000 annually. I am able to handle and negotiate conflicts over my past 20+ years on the board.

Last summer I was involved with the Windom Door Knocking Project to ask fellow my neighbor opinions, get feedback and encourage participation in our Windom Council, even on a committee level. I had good responses on my immediate 6 block area and enjoy engaging with people. I believe in thinking outside the box to be innovative and creative with ideas for events, fundraising, community organizing and engagement. Our outreach is a continuing process and I want to be engaged in the Windom Renter Engagement this summer.

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Dembo Darboe (Incumbent)

120 West 59th Street

I am interested in serving the board to contribute my efforts towards solving community problems, pursue available resources from the state and city needed to make the Windom Community an attractive livable community. I am also interested in strengthening and promoting the development of better relationships between neighbors through teamwork and effective communication.

The experience and expertise to bring to the board include fund raising work experiences with the MN Chapter CPCU Society and TPT Television station, volunteer community Door knocking activities with the Windom Community council and contributed ideas in participation at Windom Community meetings to solve problems.

I would help the board increase its outreach to immigrant community especially the Somali residents through personal engagements to build relationships, understand their needs, explain available resources and encourage their active participation to contribute ideas in building an admired diversity and inclusive community. Also, they would organize minority day events and invite neighborhood residents to attend.

Patrick Barrett (Incumbent)

6120 Nicollet Ave, Unit A

I have served on the Windom Board for 17 years, and been a Windom resident for almost 30 years. My wife and I have raised our daughter and granddaughter here, and I am staunchly dedicated to making Windom a safe and prosperous place for residents and businesses. I am blind, and represent a person with a disability and unique perspective on the board.

I have worked at State Services for the Blind (SSB) for 10 years providing high quality customer service for people who are blind, visually impaired or DeafBlind. I use public transportation several times a week. I have rented in Windom for almost 30 years. I patronize Windom businesses such as Cub Foods, Nicollet Dental and the Paddy Wagon restaurant.

I have always encouraged multilingual communications through flyers and online media. I had 3 yers of Spanish and a semester of college in that language, and use it regularly at work when proofreading transcribed Braille books. I have served several years as chairman of the Safety & Health Committee. Our committee has sponsored several neighborhood safety meetings, and assisted 30 residents with funding for home security systems. Last fall, I volunteered at a major recycling event for paper shredding and old electronic equipment disposal.

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Mary Petersen

5824 Pleasant Ave

My name is Mary Petersen, 5824 Pleasant Ave. My husband & I have been residents of Windom for 46 years.

I love our neighborhood & have spent many years volunteering for the WCC in several capacities. I have been a board member & president in the past. I was president during our time of being chosen to participate in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) & worked hard, with many others, to attain approval for the construction of the Windom Community Center. I also worked on getting approval for the playground at Windom & enjoyed helping with the Windom Community News.

Bringing neighbors together is very important to me. We have many renters in Windom. It's important we reach out to them & that their concerns are heard. I'm willing to work on those efforts as I have in the past.

I have the time & a sincere wish to help our neighborhood continue to thrive. I hope you will consider my application.