



**To:** MAYOR & COUNCIL

**Agenda Item #:** VIII. E.

**From:** Member Joni Bennett  
Member Mary Brindle

**Action**

**Discussion**

**Date:** July 16, 2013

**Information**

**Subject:** Student Appointments To Advisory Boards And Commissions

## **Action Requested:**

Adopt Resolution.

## **Information / Background:**

Twenty-four students (all but two enrolled at Edina High School) applied for 16 positions for 2013-14. City Clerk Deb Mangen worked with the students to accommodate work and travel schedules, and set interviews for Monday, June 10; Thursday, June 13; Wednesday, June 19 and Monday, July 8. One student failed to appear for either an initial or rescheduled interview.

We interviewed all 23 remaining students (12 rising seniors, seven rising juniors and four rising sophomores). Board and commission chairs were invited to participate. The Energy & Environment Commission and Planning Commission sent a resolution and email, respectively, supporting reappointment of their 2012-13 student members. Human Rights & Relations commissioner Jan Seidman assisted in interviews and we are very grateful for her help.

For four students, we are recommending reappointment to the boards or commissions they served last year. The work of those bodies is complex and continues from year to year. Reappointment will allow students familiar with the work and process of the respective bodies to mentor newly-appointed students.

Due to the number of applications this year, we were not able to match every applicant to a board or commission. Many of the students expressed interest in serving on a working group. We recommend that letters to the students not appointed include a list of working groups and contact people. We also recommend that the letters advise the students that their applications will be reactivated should any openings arise during the upcoming school year. Finally, we urge that rising sophomores and juniors be strongly encouraged to reapply next spring.

Last year, an orientation for new student board and commission members was held in September. During interviews, we heard that students would strongly prefer that an orientation be held in late August, prior to the start of their one-year terms in September and the start of high school classes. We recommend that an orientation be scheduled on or after EHS' "Get Connected Day" on Wednesday, August 21. We recommend that an orientation not be scheduled during Rosh Hashanah, which begins at sundown on Wednesday, September 4 and ends at sundown on Friday, September 6.

We are delighted to report that most boards and commissions appear to be fostering mentor relationships between student and regular members. Students told us that they are encouraged to participate in deliberations. They appreciated being asked to provide the student perspective.

We recommend the appointment of the students listed below to the respective boards and commissions:

**Art & Culture Commission**

Sophia Munic (junior)  
Jack Ready (sophomore)

**Community Health Committee**

Tone Deinema (junior, Providence Academy)  
Aditya Mittal (sophomore)

**Energy & Environment Commission**

Sarah Bale (senior)  
Elana Sokol (senior, EEC 2012-13)

**Heritage Preservation Board**

Andrew Brandt (senior, EEC 2012-13)  
Nathan Johnson (senior, HPB 2012-13)

**Human Rights & Relations Commission**

Molly Haeg (senior)  
Paige Harrington (senior)

**Park Board**

Sarah Good (senior, HPB 2012-13)  
Julie Johnson (junior)

**Planning Commission**

Taylor Halva (junior)  
Ben Kilberg (senior, PC 2012-13)

**Transportation Commission**

Caroline Sierks (senior, TC 2012-13)  
Jackson Van Dyke (junior)