City of Asheville
City Council Vacancy Application Form

Your name: Angela Hope McMahan Home Phone #: 828-489-4224

Street Address: 25 Howland Road City: Asheville Zip Code: NC

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Employer: Deltec Homes

Position: Assitant Project Manger/Green Department Office Phone # 828-417-6355

Resident of City of Asheville (required): ● Yes ☐ No

Registered Voter in the City of Asheville (required): ● Yes ☐ No

Race: White Sex: F Age: 26

Residence location (check one) Central ____ North ● South ____ East ____ West ____

Additional Information Required:

1. Resume
2. ½ page response to the essay questions below: (not attached)

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com
Angela Hope McMahan
Key: 995995faaf6d01d33d35162fadd2ad3f

Applicant Signature
Date: 08/20/2020

All applications and attachments must be
Returned by **Noon, Thursday, August 20**, 2020 to:

Maggie Burleson, City Clerk
PO Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
Email: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov
Phone: 828-259-5601

Angela Hope McMahan
Address:25 Howland Road R6
Asheville, Nc, 28804
828-489-4224
Hope.mcmahan@gmail.com

Education:

- Charles D. Owen High School
- Bryn Mawr College
  Growth & Structure of Cities (Sociology and Urban Planning)
  Minor: Environmental Studies, Feminist Studies
  Concentration: Architecture

Leadership Experience:

- Deltec Homes
  Green Department/Assistant Project Manager Aug 2019- Current

Seamlessly work behind the scenes for three Project Managers to ensure that customers expectations are met by producing house designs, price quotes, contracts, or communicating with builders. Back up to our Green Department manager by reviewing plans for building science errors, conduct passive solar analysis, complete forms for building inspectors and answer building science questions for customers,builders, and co-workers.

- The Home Depot
  - Head Cashier Aug 2017 -Nov-2018
  - Department Supervisor Nov 2018 - Aug 2019

Adjusting schedules weekly to account for appropriate coverage during peak and slow business hours, monitoring the daily routines of the cashiers, coaching cashiers on the best practice, tracking inventory shrink, providing excellent customer service to all customers, whether patient or trying.

- Appalachian Naturals Soap 2015-2017
  - Manager/Sales associate

Teaching customers and work associates about botanical/essential oils and how how they can be used to help common skin conditions, hand-making product, contacting vendors for pricing/shipments/orders

Skills:

-Leadership
- Active listener
-Collaboration
-Organized

The following questions may be answered directly on this form, or responses uploaded as attachments upon form submission.

1. **With the death of George Floyd the country was thrust into a new civil rights movement. Policing in America was scrutinized even more and even here locally reparations were passed. Please explain if you believe that systemic racism and oppression exist, if yes do you or do you not support reparations and what it all means in the context of equity and Inclusion.**

Yes, I do believe that systemic racism and oppression exist and I do support reparations. Generations of systemic racism have created challenges for BIPOC in all aspects of becoming a successful citizen. In order for our city to take an anti-racist approach we need to address these challenges by channeling support into our marginalized communities.
In order for equity to be achieved we must take varied approaches in lifting up our marginalized communities, including funneling monetary resources where appropriate (in the form of physical checks, grants, or other donations, for example), dismantling long-standing oppressive systems such as red lining and gerrymandering, and promoting BIPOC owned businesses. Reparations are a multi-faceted approach that are not one-size-fits-all and needs to be handled as such.
To achieve Inclusion we need to listen to our marginalized communities so that we can create activities in our city to celebrate BIPOC, rewrite policy, and enact practices that prioritize their needs.

2. **Do you support Black Asheville Demands call for defunding the APD by 50%? If no, please explain why and if yes, what sort of timeline do you envision to reach that goal?**

Yes, I support Black Asheville Demands call to defund the APD by 50%. Since I have never dealt with a budget on this large of a scale, I am unsure of what a reasonable timeline would look like, but I can suggest what I believe would be good steps towards meeting this demand.
First, the city needs to propose a new budget that has cut the APD by 50% and recommend allocations for the money. Once this has been completed, a public forum should be opened to the citizens of Asheville where the councils ideas will be presented and any questions from the community answered. A mailed ballot can then be distributed to determine if the proposal is sufficient. If so, Asheville needs to then restructure the APD to work within their new budget. These changes should also have a public forum and mail in ballot. I feel this will be a time consuming process, and to ensure citizens that change is happening, a rough plan should be released as soon as possible to be both transparent and to gain trust. The rough plan does not have to be concrete but needs to adequately show our community that we are listening and trying.

3. **Explain why you want to serve on City Council.**

I want to serve Asheville because this is my home; I was born and raised here. I left Asheville for college and thought I would never want to return. By my senior year of college I entered into active addiction which led me back to be with family and get help. Although it took over a year, two DUIs, and two years of sobriety court, I am sober and have rediscovered my love for Asheville.
While I will readily admit that we are not a perfect city, at our heart we are empathetic, community driven, and caring. I want to help Asheville work through its flaws and foster the weird, imaginative, and loving community that grows here. This is the culture that has helped me maintain my sobriety, achieve my dream career, and restored my faith in other people. To be able to give that back to that community would be a great opportunity, and I would be honored to serve a city that has given me so much.

4. **If selected, how do you plan to communicate and work with the other Council members? To help us understand, please give examples of your working collaboratively in the past.**

My plan to communicate with other council members is similar to how any team would communicate. I have been playing team sports since I was 4, which has given me a strong team mentality. I have adapted the way I communicated on the field and on the court to my professional life. For example, multiple times throughout a game I would check in on my teammates physical, and mental health. In a professional environment, the pressures of the clock and competition typically aren't as present, but the need for openness and honesty is just as important. Now I check in with my coworkers every week, instead of the multiple times a day that I would during game time. I have learned that opening this channel of communication builds a personal relationship of trust and understanding which enables stronger, more seamless communication. Not only does this allow for better collaborative efforts, it also eases the tensions during disputes and disagreements. When you have been open and honest with your peers, both sides are more able to understand each other, and resolutions come more quickly and easily.

5. **What do you consider the most pressing problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville today? How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?**

The unfortunate thing about Asheville's current state of affairs is that there is no one individual problem that is the "most pressing problem". Our current issues are intertwined with many overarching issues that are not unique to us. Asheville is dependent on tourism and has spent numerous years building a strong industry that fuels our local economy. During those years I have seen the empty, boarded up stores of downtown transform into booming business, mainly local. This also brought many improvements to our public transportation, sidewalks, roads, and even a larger variety of downtown city run events. However, I feel that through this journey to better our tourist's experience Asheville has forgotten to take care of it's residents.

Asheville is in the midst of a housing crisis, which is only worsened by the fact that our most common employers are service industry and retail, historically low paying jobs. For us to maintain our status as a tourist hotspot, and by extension our city as a whole, we need to take care of the local citizens that take care of our tourists.This problem becomes even more entangled when you bring race and class into the mix. Systematic racism has pushed BIPOC into "undesirable" neighborhoods while also creating less opportunities for financial independence or growth. Classism then has furthered this via gentrification forcing the poor further from the city and employment. Eventually this will lead us to a city with copious service jobs vacant because they don't pay enough for the workers to live in Asheville and our once bountiful tourist economy will crash.

In order to fix our course, I feel that Asheville needs to address the housing crisis and living wage mandate more aggressively. This will not correct the course, but will at least point us in the correct direction. Once we have provided every citizen of Asheville with the resources they need to thrive, we can start expanding and pushing for a larger tourist economy again.