

Kristin Hoffschmidt
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April 19, 2022

Dear Mayor Feinsod and members of the Venice City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply to serve on the Venice Environmental Advisory Board. I am writing to update my previous application. Since moving to Florida, I have worked in the following areas to gain knowledge and experience with Florida's natural resources:

- Certified Florida Master Naturalist Sept 2021 – Jan 2022
Courses completed:
 - Coastal Systems of Florida
 - Freshwater Systems of Florida
 - Upland Systems of Florida
 - Invasive Plants of Florida
 - Habitat Evaluation
- Venice Area Audubon Society Board of Directors Nov. 2021 – present
 - Vice President of Board (President in May 2022) for all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to conservation and protection of birds and their habitat.
- Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Network Sept. 2021 – present
 - As volunteer citizen scientist, conduct monthly water quality data collection in Lemon Bay.
- Sarasota County Volunteer Jan 2022 – present
 - Invasive removal workday and planning for a Caspersen Friends group.
- Gopher Tortoise Burrow Survey Volunteer March 2022 – present
 - Assist in locating and recording gopher tortoise burrows in Boyd Hill Preserve with researcher George Heinrich.
- Florida State Parks Volunteer Sept. – Dec. 2021
 - Special Project: Historical record organization of District 4 State Park documents.

I appreciate your consideration and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hoffschmidt

Profile

Kristin

First Name

J

Middle Initial

Hoffschmidt

Last Name

232 Gulf Drive

Street Address

Venice

City

FL

State

34285

Postal Code

kristinhoffschmidt@gmail.com

Email Address

Home: (608) 577-0471

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Environmental Advisory Board: Submitted

Have you ever been convicted or pled "no contest" to a misdemeanor offense?☐ Yes ☒ No**Have you ever been convicted or pled "no contest" to a felony?**☐ Yes ☒ No

Demographics**Are you a city resident?**☒ Yes ☐ No**How long have you lived in the City of Venice?**

5 months

Ethnicity☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic**Gender**☒ Female

Interests & Experiences

Are you currently serving or have you served on a city board?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I am interested in serving on a City of Venice Board because I strongly believe in residents being engaged and active in civic matters. Board members provide important analysis and recommendations to elected officials that enable them to make well-informed decisions. Board members also amplify resident's voices to provide critical input on decisions that affect the community, strengthening the democratic process. I am interested specifically in the Environmental Advisory Board because the environment must be healthy to have a healthy community. The natural areas, water and waste systems, and other aspects of Venice's environment are under intense pressure from climate change, population growth, and other factors, and how the city manages these issues impacts the quality of life for all residents.

Resume of Education and Experience:

I have been visiting Venice for eight years and moved here this summer. I am taking classes to become a FL Master Naturalist; am on the Board of Directors of the Venice Area Audubon Society; test water quality monthly with the FL Department of Environmental Protection (Charlotte Harbor Estuaries); and volunteer with FL State Parks. I moved from WI where I was a WI Master Naturalist and Master Gardener and was involved with environmental advocacy groups. My education and employment experience are as a Master's level Social Worker and Paralegal. I have taught classes on social policy and my civic engagement includes serving as a volunteer election official for over 15 years. In my employment, I have worked in systems with complex policies, rules, and laws, and have interpreted them to people impacted by those systems. I have been involved with local environmental groups and issues, and in my career have seen the disparate negative environmental impacts on vulnerable communities.

Member of the Following Organizations:

Venice Area Audubon Society; FL Master Naturalists; FL Native Plant Society

[Resume - _HOFFSCHMIDT_11-2021.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Acknowledgements

KRISTIN J. HOFFSCHMIDT

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EDUCATION

- Post-Baccalaureate Paralegal Program, Madison College (2018)
- Master of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison (1998)
- *Licenciatura* (two-year graduate degree with thesis) of Latin American Studies, National University of Costa Rica (1996)
- Bachelor of Arts - Sociology, Grinnell College (1991)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Paralegal

Legal Action of Wisconsin: Madison, WI

3/2018 – 7/2021

Supported and coordinated the work of attorneys at a non-profit law firm serving people with low incomes. Assisted with eviction defense, criminal record expungement, farmworker issues, intake, disability appeals, and consumer issues.

Horticulture Specialist

2016 - 2017

Skills required in all positions include attention to detail, efficiency, multitasking, planning, teamwork, and independent work.

- **Klein's Floral and Greenhouse:** Soil preparation, seeding transplantation, irrigation, pruning, and inventory maintenance (April 2017 to July 2017; March to July 2016).
- **Knight Hollow Nursery:** In plant tissue culture laboratory, subculture plant clones, root microcuttings, and transplant microcuttings (Dec. 2016 to March 2017).
- **Garden Search and Rescue:** Landscaping work including planting, mulching, and weed control with a focus on organic and permaculture principles (Aug. 2016).
- **UW Extension:** Master Gardener Volunteer (2016 – 2021); Master Naturalist (2016).

Adjunct Instructor

Taught undergraduate and graduate students at two institutions in Madison, WI. Designed and updated course content; managed courses with Learning Management Software; produced detailed syllabi, assignment, exams, and study materials; presented information in multiple formats; communicated with students, faculty, and administration.

- **Edgewood College** **2013 - 2015**
Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Social Sciences for Human Services courses such as Human Behavior and the Social Environment and Advanced Social Change Skills.
- **UW Madison School of Social Work** **2009-2010, 2015**
Adjunct Instructor for undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Social Work in courses such as Social Policy and Introduction to the Field of Social Work.

Health Benefits and Resources Specialist

Assisted clients in navigating complex programs to obtain and maintain benefits in Madison, WI.

- **Group Health Cooperative of South Central WI** **2013 – 2014**
Community Services Coordinator for two primary care clinics. Advocated for patient's psychosocial needs such as basic resources, home help, abuse and neglect, transportation, and advance care planning. Conducted health needs assessments of new patients and facilitated intensive case coordination of high-risk pregnant women.
- **Employment Resources, Inc.** **2009 – 2013**
Community Benefits Specialist working with individuals with severe mental illness to obtain benefits such as Social Security disability (SSI/SSDI) and Medicaid. Provided comprehensive pre- and post-entitlement assistance, problem solving, and systems advocacy. Founded the Dane County Benefits Networking Group.
- **State of WI Department of Health Services** **2008 – 2009**
Outreach staff providing training and technical assistance to organizations statewide. Trained community partners on BadgerCare Plus policy and application process, organized enrollment events, and facilitated focus groups. LTE (limited term employment) position.

Family Services Provider

Provided family-supporting services to strengthen parent/child and school relationships.

Children's Service Society of WI: Madison, WI **2006 – 2008**

- **Families and Schools Together (FAST) Program:** Program facilitator and interpreter (English/Spanish) for middle and elementary schools. Recruited families, led programming, and facilitated parent group.
- **Family Resource Center:** Supervisor of project with programming in six areas of Dane County. Planned and provided workshops, playgroups, and events for families with young children. Established collaborative relationships with community partners, such as Joining Forces for Families, and supervised two staff.

Legal Advocate

Supported families experiencing domestic violence through community systems work and direct service.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services: Madison, WI **2001 - 2006**

Coordinated legal program, including supervision of five staff and interns, data coordination, and grant reporting. Led community work on systems issues including serving as chair of Coordinated Community Response committee and law enforcement training. Provided direct services to victims of domestic violence including support, information and referral, advocacy, and court accompaniment. Covered restraining orders and family, criminal, tenant, and immigration law in English and Spanish.