



Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Manager

Adam W. Chapdelaine
Town Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 12, 2019

TO: Board Members

SUBJECT: Appointment as an Associate to the Park and Recreation Commission

This memo is to request the Board's approval of my appointment of Leah Broder, Arlington, MA, as an Associate Member to the Park and Recreation Commission.


Town Manager

July 15, 2019

Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager
730 Massachusetts Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Mr. Chapdelaine,

I am applying for the position of Parks and Recreation Commissioner based on my deep commitment to improving the built environment in our Town. As a landscape practitioner with over 15 years of experience designing and building parks and public landscapes, I have a wealth of practical knowledge about the realities of conceptualizing, designing, building, and maintaining parks. I will contribute this knowledge and insight to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

We live in a time when parks must be considered not only as venues for active recreation, but also as critical components of ecological and social value. My interest in becoming a Parks and Rec Commissioner is focused on three primary areas

1. Growing our tree canopy to reduce the urban heat island effect and improve climate resiliency
2. Improving parks for underserved populations, particularly the aging/elderly and those with disabilities
3. Finding ways to support and improve school campus grounds, and to consider them as a piece of our networked open space

I have a proven track record managing complex landscape projects for large institutions. My design insights will be a valuable contribution to the Parks Commission, as I think critically and strategically about individual park projects as well as about our Town's park inventory as a networked whole. I can be a liaison with design teams, utilizing my professional experience to communicate the Town's goals and priorities to ensure designers realize our shared vision. My construction experience will serve the commission to review budgets, technical details, and even work in the field.

As a resident of Arlington for the past five years, and mother of two elementary school boys at Thompson, I have a demonstrated commitment to improving our open spaces. This year at Thompson School I designed a Native Pollinator Garden and Outdoor Classroom. Through community organizing I facilitated the purchase and installation of the garden by securing donations of plants, materials, time and services from a wide range of individuals and organizations.

As a tree steward I have worked with a volunteer arborist as well as with our core group of tree stewards to tend the trees on the Thompson campus and to observe and report on damage to street trees during construction. I have met with the Tree Committee and learned firsthand about the challenges facing our tree canopy. I will share my knowledge of soils and construction best practices to foster a more sustainable approach to species selection, planting practices, and tree care in order to grow a robust canopy for Arlington Parks.

For the past year I have been a leader, with Phil Bokovoy, of the Friends of North Union Park. Through our organizing and advocacy, we are thrilled that the project has received funding and I am well situated to serve the Commission through its design, contract award, and construction.

As an advisory group member of Arlington Public Art I have been involved in the current PATHWAYS project, working with curator Cecily Miller to develop programming to engage the public with art along the Minuteman Bikeway. I am also working with Adria on fundraising for APA. The incorporation of art into our Parks is a brilliant way to draw new park visitors and expand our user groups.

LEAH BRODER MLA, ASLA

| Arlington, Massachusetts 02474 |

LEAH BRODER MLA, ASLA

Arlington, Massachusetts |

EDUCATION

Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) *Master of Landscape Architecture*
Harvard Presidential Instructional Technology Fellowship
Community Service Fellowship
California College of the Arts *Bachelor of Fine Arts with High Honors*
All College Honors in Fine Arts
Wesleyan University *Undergraduate Studies*

PRACTICE

Enterprise Green Communities Boston, Massachusetts *Technical Advisor* 2018-present
Update of sustainable building certification criteria for affordable housing used in 43 states and D.C.
Reed Hilderbrand Cambridge, Massachusetts *Senior Associate* 2011-2012, 2014-2018
The Alamo Comprehensive Interpretive Plan San Antonio, Texas
Repentance Park Baton Rouge, Louisiana
West Campus Commons Framework Study, MIT Cambridge, Massachusetts
L Block Urban Design Tampa, Florida
Crown Commons, Duke University Durham, North Carolina
Abele Quad, Duke University Durham, North Carolina
Rubenstein Arts Center, Duke University Durham, North Carolina
Keohane New Dormitory, Duke University Durham, North Carolina
East Quadrangle Renewal Plan, Duke University Durham, North Carolina
Events Pavillion, Duke University Durham, North Carolina
Woods Bagot Abu Dhabi & Dubai, United Arab Emirates *Consulting Lead Landscape Architect* 2012-2013
Dubai Design District Dubai, UAE
Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation Housing Baraka, UAE
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank Headquarters Abu Dhabi, UAE
TBG Partners Abu Dhabi & Dubai, UAE *Consulting Director & Lead Landscape Architect* 2013-2014
SWA Los Angeles, California *Landscape Designer & Project Manager* 2005-2008
New Terrain for Chongming Island Shanghai, CHINA
Gubei Gold Street Shanghai, CHINA
Kunming Eco-Communities Longview Neighborhood Kunming, CHINA
Algabas Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN
San Bernardino Valley College Campus Masterplan San Bernardino, California
Giant Interactive Headquarters Shanghai, P.R. CHINA
Municipal Department of Urbanism Girona, SPAIN *Landscape Design Intern* 2003
High-Speed Train Open Space Plan Girona, SPAIN
Harvard GSD Cambridge, Massachusetts *Researcher & Content Developer & Web Designer* 2005
*E*vue: Emergent Vegetation of the The Urban Ecosystem*

AWARDS

Honor Award in General Design 2018 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
Excellence in Landscape Architecture General Design 2018 Society for College and University Planning
Merit Award 2014 ASLA Louisiana Chapter
Merit Award 2014 ASLA Southern California Chapter
Award for Public Space 2013 International Downtown Association
Award of Excellence 2012 ASLA Southern California Chapter
Honor Award 2012 ASLA
Quality of Life Award 2012 ASLA Southern California
Best Open Space in China 2012 Ideal Space Book
Analysis and Planning Award of Honor 2008 ASLA
Studio Works 2003 Harvard Graduate School of Design

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Thompson Elementary School Arlington, Massachusetts
Native Pollinator Garden & Outdoor Classroom *Pro Bono Landscape Design and Installation*
Campus Trees *Volunteer Tree Steward*
Eco-Week Curriculum and Activities *Green Team Coordinator*
North Union Park Arlington, Massachusetts *Friends Group Advisory Member*
Arlington Public Art Arlington, Massachusetts *Advisory Group and Committee Member*

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

DIANE M. MAHON, CHAIR
DANIEL J. DUNN, VICE CHAIR
JOSEPH A. CURRO, JR.
JOHN V. HURD
STEPHEN W. DECOURCEY



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TOWN OF ARLINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

October 29, 2019

Leah Broder

Arlington, MA 02474

Re: Appointment: Associate Member to Park and Recreation Commission

Dear Ms. Broder:

As a matter of the standard appointment procedure, the Select Board requests that you attend a meeting of the Select Board at Town Hall, Select Board Chambers, 2nd Floor, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, on Monday, November 18th at 7:15 p.m.

It is a requirement of the Select Board that you be present at this meeting. Your presence will give the Board an opportunity to meet and discuss matters with you about the area of activity in which you will be involved.

Please contact this office to confirm the date and time with Fran, Ashley or Lauren at the above number.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,
SELECT BOARD

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marie A. Krepelka".

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator

MAK:ls