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Tim Hickin, City Administrator  
City Hall, 621 W. Broad Street  
Pataskala, Ohio 43062  
Thickin@ci.pataskala.oh.us

Dear Mr. Hickin,

I am interested in serving the City of Pataskala as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. I have ample experience planning and coordinating with other departments, volunteers, and community organizations and would like to put this experience to use in helping to maintain and improve the city's parks and amenities.

I am an elector of the city and have been a resident since April 2019. During that time, I have often used many of the parks and their amenities with my family; we participate in a challenge to spend 1000 Hours Outside yearly and while we enjoy parks throughout the city and surrounding areas often, we greatly appreciate the easy availability of 3 nearby city parks within walking distance. We have also taken part in programs like soccer, swim lessons, and the Passport to Fishing Program.

I appreciate the grounds, resources, and obvious passion that propels park staff and volunteers, and I have been impressed with their responsiveness to my concerns in the past. I also have noted areas where improvements can be made including: making playground equipment and grounds more accessible; expanding community awareness and use of resources through amenities and marketing; combating vandalism and trash; and focusing on maintenance abilities in long-term planning.

I have worked in a variety of nonprofit and governmental organizations including South Carolina State Parks. This experience gave me insight into issues of park maintenance; this insight is magnified by my experience with historic organizations that maintain park-like spaces and programming. I spent over a decade with the nonprofit organization Historic Columbia in various roles. While there I planned and coordinated projects with city officials and other organizations, oversaw volunteers, and worked with various departments within our organization to achieve our goals and facilitate programs. Currently, I am a homeschool educator who visits and utilizes local and regional parks regularly. My knowledge and experience of parks in Pataskala and surrounding areas would be useful when planning improvements. I look forward to leveraging my experiences to serve on the Pataskala Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and I hope to help to improve our city's robust park system.

Thank you for your consideration,

Celia Galens