

Memorandum Mayor's Office

To: Members of the City Council
Subject: Board and Commission Appointments
Date: April 8th, 2015



I am recommending the following names for appointment on the Community Garden Committee for one year terms.

Christopher Strunk, Rock Island

Chris Strunk is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Augustana College. He received his PhD in Geography from the University of Minnesota in 2012 and has been teaching at Augustana for 3 years. Trained as an urban and population geographer, Chris developed a personal and professional interest in agriculture and community gardens through his research with rural Bolivian migrants living in the Washington D.C. area and his current research with immigrants and refugees in the Quad Cities. At Augustana, Chris teaches about urban planning, economic geography, Latin America and food studies, and is a faculty advisor to Augie Acres.

Michael Woods, Rock Island

Michael Woods has over 30 years of agriculture and horticulture experience with academic training in Agricultural Education from the University of Illinois (BS and MS) and Iowa State University (PhD). Prior to returning to the Quad Cities area in 2005, Dr. Woods served as an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Communication and Education at Michigan State University, Instructor of Agricultural Education at Iowa State University, the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra, and the Ukrainian Agricultural University in Kiev. Dr. Woods served as the Executive Director of the University of Illinois Extension in Rock Island County from 2005 until 2010. Currently, Dr. Woods serves as an Agricultural Instructor at Spoon River College, in which he teaches courses in horticulture, crops, soils, animal science, farm management, precision agriculture and other agricultural disciplines.

Joshua Schipp, Rock Island

Joshua Schipp currently serves as a staff member with the United Way of the Quad Cities Area. He received his BA in Political Science from Augustana College in 2010. While a student at Augustana, Joshua helped bring the "Augie Acres" project from idea into full functioning organic garden. Since 2009, Joshua has volunteered with and learned from some of the Quad Cities' best organic farmers and gardeners. Joshua served as the Market Manager at the Freight House Farmers' Market in Davenport Iowa from May through October in 2010. Since that time, he has remained an active urban gardener at this home, and on leased City property through the Garden Lot Program, in addition to attending local and regional trainings and conferences regarding organic food production. Many of the products he grows end up for sale at the Farmers' Market. Together with friends and neighbors, Joshua has turned otherwise unproductive urban space into flourishing organic garden plots, producing a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and herbs from April into November. Joshua believes that gardens connect neighbors and neighborhoods, and more importantly, they can teach individuals invaluable lessons that Nature demonstrates best: hard work, patience, thrift, and pride.

Tim Chambers, Rock Island, IL 61201

Tim Chambers is a Program Director at River Action in Davenport. He holds a M.S. in Ethnobotany from the University of Kent and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and B.S. Biology for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Tim is interested in exploring the interface between people and plants and is particularly interested urban gardening and small scale agriculture. His master's research focused on decision making, local knowledge and knowledge transfer in home gardens of small landholding farmers in Eastern Tyrol, Austria. Before joining River Action, Tim worked to develop the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank; and with Living, Lands, and Waters to establish their Million Trees Program nursery in Davenport. Prior to moving to Rock Island in 2012, he worked for almost a decade for the City of New York's Department of Parks and Recreation as the Deputy Director of the Greenbelt Native Plant Center, a 13 acre greenhouse, nursery, and seed bank complex.

Beth Zambone, Davenport

Beth presently serves as the community gardens coordinator for Broadway Presbyterian Church and Rock Island Urban Gardeners. Prior to relocating to the Quad Cities, Beth used her marketing communications background in a variety of nonprofit and educational settings. Helping in the family garden and working hot summers on a local truck farm were formative early experiences, but her present commitment to community gardening stems from its potential to support food independence, strengthen community health, and encourage civic engagement.

Reverend Dr. Jacqueline J. Cunningham-Walls, Rock Island

Reverend Cunningham-Walls is the president of Positive Empowerment Group Inc. and has been running community gardens for over 10 years. She teaches others to garden and manages the Franklin School site for residents. She is a believer in sustainable ways to garden.

Reverend Donald Johnson, Rock Island

Reverend Johnson has gardened a City owned lot for some time. He also works closely with Reverend Cunningham-Walls, Positive Empowerment Group Inc.

Recommendation: Recommend that the appointments / reappointments be approved as listed for the terms as indicated.

Submitted by: Dennis E. Pauley, Mayor

Approved by: Dennis E. Pauley, Mayor