

Form Name:  
Unique ID:

Boards and Commissions Application  
1357399273

Date Received:

6/27/2025

Voter registration verified:

NA

On:

NA

By:

Diyi Zhu  
Page 1 of 6

## Applicant Information

Name	Diyi Zhu
Are you a Sunnyvale resident?	Yes
How long have you lived in Sunnyvale?	1.5 years
Description Area	Residence Notice:Unless otherwise noted, your principal place of residence must be in Sunnyvale. You must live in Sunnyvale at the time of appointment and at all times during service on a board or commission.
Current Main Residence	
Email	
Phone	
Are you currently a registered voter in Sunnyvale?	No
Have you ever served on a City of Sunnyvale board or commission?	No
Have you attended a meeting of the City Council, or a board or commission?	Yes
Briefly describe what you learned by watching or attending a meeting of the City Council, board or commission. What improvements would you suggest?	The commissions are run on Parliamentary procedure, which creates a structure for public comment, consent to approve, etc. It's well established and well run. The open comment section for the public is a very valuable part of the meetings, given that each decision that the commission makes affects the community at large, so creating a space for community input helps guide the commission to best serve its community. When the Chair makes the meetings high energy, such as Chair David Kesting adding in small Easter eggs like "play ball" and "Ooh this is the fun part", it keeps the commission and the community members relaxed and engaged. During the discussion section, it's very helpful to have a Chair like Kesting to keep the discussion rolling, and to reach voting as soon as possible.
Have you attended meetings of the board(s) or commission(s) for which you are applying?	Yes

How many meetings have you attended? 4

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## Board or Commission Selection

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First Choice	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
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## Applicant Qualifications

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What motivated you to apply for this board or commission?	I've benefited greatly from biking in my own life, and have encouraged a number of friends and family into a healthier lifestyle by getting on their bikes. I'm an active member of Silicon Valley Bike Coalition, and the recreational riding group Western Wheelers, and I recently just started my own no-drop bike club. I hope to play a bigger role creating even more opportunities for Sunnyvale residents to discover the joy of biking, and make a difference in making Sunnyvale a more safe, sustainable place.
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What skills or attributes can you bring to this board or commission?	I am a community builder at heart and for the past 10 years have built up a portfolio of skills that help me bring people together. My user research background helps me understand what my neighbors need to connect; my event management background allows me to put on events from intimate backyard dinners to 1000+ attendee conferences without a hitch; and my engineering and economics degree guide me in making decisions that are both financially savvy and make high impact in the city.
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The primary role of a board or commission member is to provide advice to City Council on policy issues that are within the scope of the board or commission. What steps would you take to effectively exercise this specific board or commission role?	I hear the needs of Sunnyvale residents from a range of diverse perspectives through participating in a variety of different activities - Moms of Sunnyvale, sustainability enthusiasts from my Gardening Class, retirees in my aqua yoga class, participants at the food bank. I hope to bring all these real life perspectives and needs to the commission so that we continue to put on programming that meets the needs of Sunnyvale residents where they are.
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Education - List college degrees, majors and any relevant training or experience that demonstrates your ability to effectively serve on this board or commission.	Duke University - Mechanical Engineering and Economics Started and exited education startup 10 years in community building in various education technology companies 10 years in property management for family business and 2 years in real estate as a realtor 10 years commuter cyclist and evangelist
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**Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations.**

In addition to the aforementioned membership in Silicon Valley Bike Coalition and Western Wheelers, I enjoy being active in my community, and will go out of my way to meet my neighbors. For the past 2 years I've volunteered on the youth crisis line with California Coalition for Youth. I'm relatively new to Sunnyvale, and in the past year here I've hosted 2 block parties for my neighborhood, volunteered for the Sunnyvale Theatre and food bank (Second Harvest), and gotten involved in my local church. Before my move, I was the head of a Civics Guild in San Francisco, and we hosted many local leaders such as London Breed and Daniel Lurie to come talk to us about issues that young SF transplants care about.

**Description Area**

The City has a Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials and an Attendance Policy (7.2.19), 2 G (II) that appointed members are required to follow.

**Do you have any concerns related to the above code and policy?**

No

**Are you willing to accept a temporary appointment for the remainder of an unexpired term?**

Yes

**Board or Commission-Specific Questions**

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

**Category One: I am a bicyclist or pedestrian residing in Sunnyvale.**

Yes

**Like many Santa Clara County cities, Sunnyvale is faced with problems stemming from traffic congestion and air pollution. Suggest ways the City can improve facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians. Also, how might the City improve education and safety programs for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians?**

The city is making promising progress in making the city safer for cyclists and pedestrians with projects like the Hollenbeck Bike Lane study. I've appreciated how much community input the city takes into account when undergoing these projects, and I believe there is room for improvement. For example, neighbors near Washington Park petitioned together to create a study of speed limit for motorists on Washington Ave next to the park, and after months of effort we were able to get a study on the books for this summer. Can we make these improvement suggestions easier by creating an easily accessible public database of all proposed studies, and allow Sunnyvale residents submit new ones as well as vote for the existing issues on the table? Signs around the city with a textable number can also make it much more accessible for residents to send in feedback, like "text this number to send in your feedback about this road / intersection / park"

Relatedly, Sunnyvale residents can be better educated about how they can get involved in the safety of their transportation - I can see something like creating a summer challenge around attending a variety of different events around the city related to transportation safety, like a seminar at the library about bike safety or info sessions at school for street safety, then the winners of this challenge get a meet and greet or a shared Perry Park Ride with the mayor. Cross-pollination with local activist groups and businesses like the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition and Walt's Cycle can further compound the impact of these educational programming and make a larger and longer-lasting impact throughout the city.

<b>Description Area</b>	View the Active Transportation Plan
<b>Have you read the Active Transportation Plan?</b>	Yes

**What are your thoughts on the Active Transportation Plan?**

I'm encouraged to see that the ATP prioritizes biking and walking as more desired modes of transportation than driving, especially driving alone. The amount of community input that was collected and taken into account is impressive and insightful. As a commuter cyclist myself who came from a city that had a very visible bike culture, I'm hopeful that the various safety improvements and programming recommendations in the ATP will lead to a more vibrant biking and walking culture in Sunnyvale, and help us hit the 10% of commuters are cyclists in 2030 metric (from the disappointing 2017 number of 1.5%).

I also want to applaud the efforts of the Bicycle Rodeo Kits for schools, it seems very apt that to change the transportation culture of a city we start with our children in schools.

One suggestion I have for the ATP is more recognition for the carpooling option. It seems like a viable on-ramp solution between driving solo and biking/public transportation, and is a good opportunity to build community within the people who already share a school or workplace in common. I can see programming collaboration with various schools and employers in the area for some kind of incentive for carpooling.

<b>Description Area</b>	View the Vision Zero Plan
<b>Have you read the Vision Zero Plan?</b>	Yes
<b>What are your thoughts on the Vision Zero Plan?</b>	<p>I'm familiar with the Vision Zero Plan because it has been referenced frequently during the commission meetings throughout various presentations and even public comment. A plan is only as effective as it is actively acknowledged, and Vision Zero seems to be well known as a common goal that the commission and the community is systematically working towards addressing.</p> <p>However, I did not hear about Vision Zero until I started tuning in to the commission meetings, and I believe a better PSA effort can be put forward by the city and various community organizations to make this goal well known through Sunnyvale and align its residents to work towards this goal together.</p>

**Demographic Information**

Your age



**Your gender****Description Area**

LGBTQIA+ Identity (LGBTQIA+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and the “+” is an all-inclusive way to include additional terms used to describe one’s gender, romantic, and sexual identities for those who do not identify with heterosexuality or the gender binary.)

**LGBTQIA+ Identity****Race or Ethnicity (select all that apply)****Do you speak a language other than English?****Which languages?****Household Income****Residence - Are you a****Do you live in a****Your Agreement****Description Area**

IMPORTANT NOTICE – READ BEFORE SIGNING:By selecting both “Yes” and “Submit Form” below I am adding my digital signature to this application. I am also agreeing with the following statements:All statements I have made on this application are true and correct.I authorize the City of Sunnyvale (City) to investigate the accuracy of this information.I release the City from all claims and liabilities arising from such investigation.I acknowledge that any false statement on this application will be grounds for the City to deny my appointment. A false statement discovered later, will be grounds to dismiss me from my appointment at any time.I acknowledge that any false statement on this application could lead to criminal charges. Charges could fall under California Penal Code, Section 115 or other applicable law.

**I agree**

Yes

**Your full name**

Diyi Zhu

**Date**

Jun 27, 2025