

From: <clerk_application@northglenn.org>
To: <jsmall@northglenn.org>
Date: 1/8/2011 3:14 PM
Subject: Application for Board or Commission

Board or Commission: parks_rec
First name: Brian
Middle name: Matthew
Last name: Ocepek
Street address: 11536 Community Center Drive, #85
City, state, zip: Northglenn, CO 80233
Home phone number: 303-898-3639
Work phone number: 303-866-3203 x4353
Email address: bmocepek@gmail.com
Occupation: Real Estate
Employer: Colorado State Parks

Skills or education:

EMPLOYMENT

COLORADO STATE PARKS, Denver, CO

Real Estate Program Manager (June, 2010 – present).

Acquire property (fee title) for the creation of new state parks or for addition to existing state parks. Acquire easements across properties within or adjacent to state parks for access, conservation or recreation purposes. Grant easements to adjacent landowners for access across state parks and to public utility companies for rights-of-way across state parks. Enter into leases or cooperative agreements with public and private landowners for public outdoor recreational purposes. Negotiate with landowners to settle disputes concerning property boundaries, road locations, access, and similar issues. Participate in all aspects of real property transactions, including drafting purchase & sale contracts, deeds, easements, leases, etc.; working with title companies and independent contractors on due diligence issues (surveys, appraisals, titlework, etc.); and closing. Assist in the identification, evaluation, and prioritization of potential future acquisition projects. Assist in the submission of grant applications to Great Outdoors Colorado for funding for fee title or conservation easement purchases.

COLORADO OPEN LANDS, Lakewood, CO

Land Protection Specialist (January, 2007 – June, 2010).

Land Protection Fellow (June, 2004 - June, 2006).

Assist private landowners and government agencies in conveying conservation easements on their properties. Primary geographic focus is northeast (South Platte River Corridor) and West Slope (Gunnison River Basin). Duties include site visits, project coordination, easement drafting, and closing. Work with title companies and independent contractors on due diligence (appraisals, baselines, titlework, etc.). Submit grant applications for funding for bargain-sale conveyances.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, Denver, CO and Washington, DC

Senior Grants Manager, Intermountain West Region (December, 1998 – March, 2003).

Managed grants awarded to government agencies and environmental organizations in the Rocky Mountain region (CO, WY, MT, UT) for projects involving wildlife protection and habitat conservation on public and private lands. Duties included processing invoices and disbursements, tracking expenditures of funds, collecting progress reports, and assisting grantees with paperwork. Extensive travel across the region to attend conferences and meetings and visit with partners and grantees.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, Kittanning, PA

Law Clerk for the Hon. Joseph A. Nickleach (August, 1995 - August, 1997).

Drafted judicial opinions and other legal memoranda for the court. Conducted research on a variety of civil, criminal, domestic, and environmental issues. Attended court proceedings on a daily basis to monitor trials, hearings, etc.

EDUCATION

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL, South Royalton, VT
Master of Studies in Environmental Law, awarded August, 1998.

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY, PETTIT COLLEGE OF LAW, Ada, OH
Juris Doctor, awarded May, 1995.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh, PA
B.A. cum laude, Political Science, awarded May, 1992.

Civic activities:

I have not been involved in any civic activities to date.

Meetings attended:

Although I have not attended any Northglenn City Council, Commission, or Board meetings, I have attended and participated in similar types of public meetings as part of my professional career, primarily county commissioner meetings in numerous counties around the state as well as committee meetings at the Colorado state legislature. Many of the property acquisition projects I work on require that I present the details of the project before the commissioners of the county where the property is located, and if the purchase price is significant (\$100,000+), before the Capital Development Committee of the state legislature.

Plans/Ordinances:

I have recently taken some time to review the City's master plan and ordinances, so I am somewhat familiar with them. I am also familiar with other city and county master plans such as Morgan County, the City of Fort Morgan, Logan County, the City of Sterling, Gunnison County, and the Town of Gunnison. Many of the property acquisition projects I work on require some analysis of these plans to determine whether our proposed project is compatible with the county or city goals regarding open space and public recreation.

Traits:

I have a legal background and some experience in mediation, so I have many of the skills that are useful for resolving problems. I'm a good listener, not afraid to ask questions, and can explain difficult concepts in easy to understand terms. I'm also open-minded, not quick to judge, and always willing to hear both sides of the story.

Interest:

I'm interested in this position because I've always wanted to perform some type of public service and I think I'm well qualified for this particular board. As a fairly new resident to Northglenn, I'm very impressed with the number and quality of parks and open spaces it has, especially for a smaller city. It's obvious that the public officials and residents here care very much about public recreation and open space, and I notice and appreciate that every time I take a stroll around Webster Lake at E.B. Rains Park which is close to my home and always seems crowded. Because I am a strong supporter of these causes as well, I would welcome the opportunity to be able to participate in public discussions about issues concerning present and future parks and open spaces. I already have a strong professional background in the fields of land conservation and public recreation, and as a result of this experience, I believe I can be an active participant on the board and add some credible insight to the discussions.

Relatives:

I am not related to any employee, appointee, or elected official of the City of Northglenn.

Able to attend meetings (or number likely missed):

Additional boards or commissions:

Adjustment: N
Citizens Affairs: N
Election Commission: N
NURA: Y
Historic Preservation: N
Parks and Rec: N
Planning Commission: Y
VALE: N