



CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH BOARD/COMMISSION APPLICATION

Name of Board/Commission - Select Board/Commission -

Name Phone Number

Address

Email

Occupation/Profession

Employer Name & Address

REFERENCES (Please List Three References)

Personal:

Professional:

Other:

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE (Past and Present)

Why do you wish to serve on the Board/Commission?

Which duties and responsibilities of the Board/Commission are important to you and why?

Do you have any current or past obligations or responsibilities, which could be construed as a conflict of interest with the position you are applying for? YES

If yes, please explain below:

SEE ATTACHED

Please add your education, employment, memberships, past activities, or other experience you feel qualifies you to serve on the Board/Commission.

SEE ATTACHED

<u>Board/Commission</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Schedule</u>
Building Board of Appeals	City Council Chambers	Second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

This five-member board provides reasonable interpretations of the Building Code [HBMC 15.04.020]

Civil Service Board	City Council Chambers	Third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m.
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This five-member board serves as the City's Review Board pertaining to personnel functions and Civil Service Rules and Regulations, including review and approval of job specifications and eligibility lists [HBMC 2.76.060-2.76.090].

Parks, Recreation & Community Advisory Commission	City Council Chambers	First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
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This five-member commission serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to the Community Resources Department; cooperates with other governmental agencies and civic groups on the advancement of sound leisure, cultural, social services and educational programming; provides guidance and approvals for City special events; and formulates policies on the services, programs and lease agreements of the Department, subject to approval of the City Council [HBMC 2.28].

Planning Commission	City Council Chambers	Third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (in December meeting is on the second Monday)
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This five-member commission is governed in all respects and performs duties as prescribed by applicable state and local laws. The primary purpose of the Commission is to maintain and enhance the environment of the community, which entails advance or long-range planning (updating of the General Plan and specific elements), current planning (short-range projects), and land use controls (administering to the code and review of all subdivisions and zoning petitions). The Commission serves as an advisory board to the City Council on all matters pertaining to zoning, conditional use permit process, etc. [HBMC 2.32].

Public Works Commission	City Council Chambers	Third Wednesday of odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, and November) at 7 p.m.
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The duties of this five-member commission are to review and make recommendations to the City Council on all capital improvement program projects, assist with developing and updating design guidelines for public improvements and other matters referred to the Commission by the City Council [HBMC 2.80].

Do you foresee any scheduling problems that might cause you to miss meetings? YES

How long have you lived in Hermosa Beach? 56 years

Additional comments:

I have deep roots in this city. My mom lives here and I raised by daughter here. Hermosa Beach shaped who I am. It's time for me to give back. I would be honored to serve on the Commission.

I have read the roles and responsibilities of the Board/Commission I am applying for. If required, I will submit proof of my voter registration status at the time I submit my application (voterstatus.sos.ca.gov).

I understand a resume must be submitted to the city clerk's office at the time I submit my application to be considered for the position.

Signature:

[Redacted Signature]

Date: June 3, 2025

**APPLICATION FOR PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
ELKA WORNER**

Why do you wish to serve on the Commission?

I was born in Germany, and when I was seven years old my family met a woman who raved about Hermosa Beach, a tight-knit beach community in Southern California. She ended up sponsoring our move to the United States and welcomed us into this wonderful town, which has been my home for 56 years.

I grew up swimming at the beach, surfing and skateboarding with friends, playing beach volleyball, and participating in Junior Lifeguards and the summer reading program at the library. I had an incredible childhood that was shaped by our outdoor spaces and community programs.

My parents, who were tennis fanatics, often took me and my friends to the Kelly Courts to practice our serves and perfect our backhands. My best friend's dad took us to 17th Street for impromptu surf classes. My Girl Scout leader lived a block away. These experiences helped shape me into the person I am today. They taught me teamwork and how to enjoy healthy competition in an outdoor setting.

I have a 22-year-old daughter, who was raised in Hermosa Beach, and am a caregiver for my elderly mom, who also lives here. I recognize how important community programs are for people of all ages.

My daughter benefitted from local camps and classes like soccer at Valley Park, beach volleyball with Sinjin Smith and surfing. She still talks about the "This Is My City" class and her visits to the police department, fire station and city hall.

I've taken my mom to several exercise classes at Hermosa Five-O. I believe she and other elderly residents would benefit from additional classes, including computer skills. I'm also passionate about developing new offerings for seniors like guided walks on the Greenbelt and the Strand so they can remain active and socially engaged.

I want to share my enthusiasm with all residents, young and old, so they can enjoy the programs I grew up with. Recreation is one way we can strengthen our sense of community.

**APPLICATION FOR PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
ELKA WORNER**

Which duties and responsibilities of the Commission are important to you?

One of the most important responsibilities of the Commission is to help carry out elements of the Parks Master Plan. I've studied the plan and watched the consultant's presentation outlining priorities like a public pool, dog park, upgrades to Clark Field and the Lawn Bowling clubhouse, as well as playground improvements. I'm also aware of budget shortfall--the plan is estimated to cost between \$27 million and \$74 million--and understand the importance of identifying new revenue sources to fund both capital improvements and ongoing maintenance.

Hermosa residents have always taken their recreation and sports seriously. From the skate park (opened in 1999 and in need of an upgrade) to the Lawn Bowling clubhouse (built in 1936 and now has a leaky roof), we must be proactive in improving these aging facilities.

I'm also deeply committed to the Commission's role in recommending programs that serve the entire community and reflect Hermosa's creative and active beach culture. I'd love to see the return of civic education programs like "This Is My City," as well as writing and poetry workshops that encourage creative expression in the digital age. A "History of Hermosa" class in collaboration with the Hermosa Museum is another way to build pride and local connection, especially among the youth. I will actively champion more "Beach Clean-Up" events, not only to protect and preserve our coastline, but to engage residents in environmental stewardship. We are fortunate to own our beach, but that comes with responsibility.

Finally, I value the Commission's role in balancing the needs of residents and visitors. That balance is vital to preserving Hermosa's identity and economic vitality. I want to help ensure our parks, facilities, and programming reflect the needs of residents while still supporting the vibrancy that makes our city a destination. I think Hermosa Beach can play an important role in hosting activities that align with the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics, such as providing training facilities for the visiting athletes.

Do you have any current or past obligations or responsibilities, which could be construed as a conflict of interest with the position you are applying for?

I helped launch the "Bark for a Park" campaign which advocates for a dog park in the city.

**APPLICATION FOR PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
ELKA WORNER**

Please add your education, employment, memberships, past activities, or other experience you feel qualifies you to serve on the Commission?

I bring a lifelong connection to Hermosa Beach, a strong professional background in journalism, and extensive civic involvement that I believe uniquely qualify me to serve on the Commission.

I worked as a reporter and television news producer for 25 years, covering breaking news, including the war in Afghanistan, Paris terrorist attacks, presidential campaigns, and natural disasters. As the West Coast bureau chief for Fox Business Network, I reported on tech and financial news and provided in-depth coverage of companies like Google, Apple, Facebook, and Tesla. I produced live reports and taped stories under tight deadlines and high-pressure environments, skills that are essential when working with others to solve problems, build consensus, and respond to community concerns.

Locally, I've written for the *Easy Reader* and *Peninsula Magazine*, covering city council meetings, business news, features and profiles. I have developed deep relationships throughout our city--from surfers to seniors to Vietnam veterans. I bring strengths in listening, asking thoughtful questions, and understanding diverse perspectives, all of which I would apply to my work on the Commission.

I'm proud to be a Mira Costa graduate and inductee in the school's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. I ran for Hermosa Beach City Council in 2024, an experience that deepened my understanding of local government and the priorities of our residents (more pickleball courts!).

I also helped launch the "Bark for a Park" campaign and established the "Save Hermosa" initiative to oppose a proposed five-story development just a block from the beach.

My civic involvement includes:

- Hermosa Beach Sister City Association (I was one of the first students to go to Loreto)
- Hermosa Beach Museum (member)
- Woman's Club of Hermosa Beach (member)
- Kiwanis Club's Neighbor to Neighbor outreach program (volunteer)
- Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce (member)
- Fiesta Hermosa and Oktoberfest (volunteer)
- South Land Parkland Conservancy (planted native species along the Greenbelt)

These experiences have connected me with residents of all ages and backgrounds and given me insight into what makes Hermosa Beach so special. I'm eager to apply my skills, passion, and local knowledge to the Commission to help ensure our community spaces and programs continue to thrive for years to come.



ELKA WORNER

Journalist | Producer | Media Strategist

SUMMARY

Seasoned journalist, television news producer and media strategist with extensive experience in national and international reporting. Proven track record of covering conflicts and major political and economic stories. Adept at managing media relations and securing impactful news coverage. Fluent in Spanish, German and French.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Los Angeles Press Club Award
- Emmy-nominated documentary producer
- Mira Costa Distinguished Alumni Award

EDUCATION

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Print Journalism, MA

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN PARIS

International Relations, BA

EXPERIENCE

EASY READER NEWSPAPER

REPORTER

- Cover city council meetings, budget proposals, policy
- Report on local businesses and community issues
- Write compelling feature stories and profiles

FOX BUSINESS NETWORK

LA BUREAU CHIEF

- Launched West Coast bureau for business channel
- Produced live reports from Apple, Google, Tesla
- Covered 2008 Financial Crisis, Brexit from Europe
- Reported on Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Steve Jobs
- Secured groundbreaking coverage from Cuba

FOX NEWS CHANNEL

PRODUCER

- Covered war in Afghanistan, Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Produced breaking news reports from California
- Reported on immigration from US-Mexico border
- Focused on politics, elections, entertainment industry

LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

PRESS SECRETARY

- Managed media relations for high-profile cases
- Assisted O.J. Simpson trial team with media
- Conducted all Spanish-language interviews for office
- Wrote press releases, planned news conferences

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

REPORTER

- General assignment reporter, police and court beat
- Menendez brothers, Rodney King, O.J. Simpson trials
- Reported on LA riots and Northridge earthquake
- Interviewed Tupac Shakur, Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre