

REVIEWED

By City Clerk's Office at 8:16 am, Jun 07, 2021

Airport Commission Applicant

Andrew J Wilder

Application Date: 06/05/21

Reside in Santa Monica: yes

If yes, number of years: 10

Hold an elected position: no

If yes, please specify:

INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

Current or prior service on city boards/commissions:

I have served on the Airport Commission for the past four years.

Community activities:

I was born in Santa Monica and grew up on the Westside. After moving to Sunset Park in 2011, I joined the local neighborhood organization in 2012, became involved in the "Yes on LC" campaign in 2014, and the Advisory Board of Airport 2 Park. I am also the current-Treasurer and past-President of the Emerald Bay Association, a 501(c)3 that supports Scout Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island.

Qualifications, experience, education, and technical or professional requirements:

I became involved in the issues surrounding SMO when I joined the Measure LC campaign. Working closely with community leaders and residents, I built and managed the website and created informational resources for the campaign. Since then I have remained active in the community, working towards mitigating the negative effects of the airport on residents and the surrounding communities. Before my first term on the Commission, I assisted Airport Commissioner Schmitz with creating drawings for presentations at Commission meetings, and worked closely with him to distill complex information from the FAA Runway Design Guidelines.

Areas of demonstrated expertise:

My professional work demonstrates my expertise in educating others; I am continually consulting with clients and employees to instruct, inform, and empower them. My volunteer work for the Measure LC campaign demonstrated expertise in community outreach and communication skills, particularly in turning complicated information into easily understandable graphics and articles.

During my first term on the Commission, I worked closely with my fellow Commissioners and Staff on projects and issues including the Runway Shortening, the Reuse of Excess Airfield Pavement, the Airport Minimum Standards, noise code enforcement, safety concerns, air quality, and the red obstruction lights installed by SCE (which were successfully removed). I now have significant institutional knowledge with regards to the unique issues and history surrounding Santa Monica Airport, and I look forward to continuing to use this expertise to serve the community.

Goals:

Measure LC was a huge victory for residents, and I am enthusiastic about the City's plan to close the airport and turn it into a Great Park. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our city, and I'm very excited to see it come to fruition.

I believe that parks and open space should be everyone's right -- and increasing access to parks, trees, green space, arts, and recreation is a powerful and effective way to help improve equity in our community.

In the spirit of LC, I will continue working toward facilitating the expansion of recreation and arts uses on the airport property as well as working with the community and Staff to enhance access to these expanded uses.

In the short term I will continue to focus on mitigating environmental, noise, and safety issues at the airport. And for our longer-term goals, we must ramp up our planning for the conversion of the airport to the Great Park. I'm excited to work with the (soon to be hired) Senior Parks Planner to help facilitate the planning process for the Great Park.

Vision:

I'm proud that I've been able to help the Airport Commission take a stronger and clearer direction when assisting and advising the Council with matters regarding the airport. I hope to stay in this role so we can continue to advise the Council effectively on issues such as environmental impacts, noise, and safety -- and expansion of recreation/arts uses, and eventual closure and conversion to a park.

During my next term, my goals are to:

- (1.) Continue to mitigate safety, noise, and pollution issues whenever possible.
- (2.) Improve community access to and around the airport, airport park, and cultural facilities at the airport -- especially for bikes and pedestrians.
- (3.) Collaborate with Council, Staff and the community on the development of the plan for the Great Park, to help make this vision a reality when the airport closes at the end of 2028.

Personal Qualities:

I have been a leader since I first joined the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout at the age of fourteen. I continued to hold leadership positions on Staff at Camp Emerald Bay starting in high school and continuing through my college years, and have volunteered on the board of the Emerald Bay Association for over sixteen years. As with any all-volunteer non-profit organization, there are often many competing interests, distractions, and goals of the members. As President of the organization I

focused the group and the organization, from reworking our mission statement and enacting a non-discrimination policy, to spearheading multi-year, six-figure fundraising campaigns.

Outside of volunteering, after earning a degree in theatrical lighting design from Northwestern University (with Magna Cum Laude honors), my first career was as a lighting designer which, by definition, is a collaborative business. Theater requires working as part of a creative team to achieve a shared vision under high-pressure -- often under extremely tight time and budget constraints. I learned through this process the necessity of listening carefully to others, considering multiple viewpoints, and the ability to determine what's truly important and what can be let go.

I now apply these skills every day in my website support agency, which has grown in recent years to include twelve employees. My company has become successful in large part because we have created a culture of trust, respect, and teamwork.

During my first term on the Airport Commission, I quickly earned the respect of my fellow Commissioners. Within my first year I was elected to the position of Vice-Chair; at the start of my second year, I was elected to the position of Chair -- and I have been unanimously re-elected each year since.

I have worked hard to lead our meetings efficiently, effectively, and fairly. We have significantly improved communication and relationships among the Commission, the community, and Staff. With our now-excellent working relationship, I look forward to continuing to serve.

Will you be able to commit the necessary time to perform your duties if appointed to the board?
yes

How did you learn about the vacancy in this board or commission? (select all that apply)

Word of Mouth- Council or Board/Commission member, City Staff, neighborhood groups, etc.

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Occupation: Internet Technology

Business name: NerdPress

Business address: Santa Monica, CA 90405

Business phone: