

Board and Commission Application 2025

Submitted by:

Submitted On: 2025 05 29 12:54:39

Submission IP:

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: City Clerk City Clerk

Due Date: Open

This form may be used to apply for one or more Board/Commission positions.

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

* **First Name**

Michael

* **Last Name**

Cohen

* **Street Address**

Street Number and Name

Unit Number

* **City**

* **State**

* **Postal Zip Code**

* **Preferred Phone Number**

Alternate Phone Number

Ex. (123) 456 7890

* **Email**

* **What is your occupation?**

Consultant/Advisor

* **Who is your employer?**

Self

* **Board/Commission of interest**

☐ **Economic Development & Advisory Commission (EDAC)**

☐ **Museum of San Carlos History Board (Museum)**

☒ **Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission (PR&C)**

☒ **Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC)**

* **If you selected more than one Board/Commission of interest above, please rank your preferences here, starting with your first choice.**

1st - Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission; 2nd - Planning and Transportation Commission

If only interested in one Board/Commission, enter N/A

*** What community activities are you presently involved in, or have been in the past?**

Youth Sports Coach, School Volunteering (Heather and Charter teaching seminars, drop off line, field trips, school lunch), Community Pickleball, Heather School PTA Treasurer, Cornhole League

*** How much time do you envision giving to the Board/Commission? How often are you out of town? What other commitments might affect your attendance to Board/Commission meetings?**

I'd anticipate giving time for meetings, advance meeting preparation, as well as sub committee work for specific events/activities that need support, as well as supporting new initiatives. I am infrequently out of town, primarily on school breaks. Youth activities at school/sports could create conflicts, but not foreseen to have high frequency of conflict and should be resolvable.

*** Why do you want to be a member of a Board or Commission? What do you feel you could contribute to the Board or Commission?**

San Carlos’s parks, recreation programs, and community events are the thread that stitches our city together. From Hometown Days and the Friday night concerts to the everyday hum of drop in pickleball at Highlands, these shared spaces give our children room to explore, our seniors places to learn and laugh, and all of us a reason to gather across neighborhoods. I’m applying to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission because I want to help impact and expand those opportunities as our city grows. A few areas of distinct interest: 1. Parks and fields. Ensuring our parks and athletic fields are available, utilized and in great condition, and that there is sufficient capacity to meet growing demand. 2. Programming for every stage of life. As a parent of three young children, I see first-hand how the Goblin Walk, youth sports, and summer camps build confidence and friendships. At the same time, the Adult Community Center has been incredibly welcoming to my mother in law's activity and engagement in the community. I'm interested in all aspects of our programming for all constituents. 3. Activation of new public spaces. The Downtown Streetscape Master Plan will open plazas and flex spaces suitable for pop-up markets, art installations, and cultural festivals. We have an incredible opportunity ahead of us to bring new events and enhance downtown. Professionally, I have spent 20+ years in operations and business-development roles that revolve around listening to diverse stakeholders, weighing trade offs, and negotiating consensus agreements. Those same skills: active listening, clear communication, and data informed decision making will be assets to the Commission whether it be allocating scarce resources, ranking improvements, or advising on how we operate. Serving on the Commission would be a privilege, and I am prepared to commit the time and energy necessary to keep San Carlos’s “City of Good Living” promise alive for the next generation.

*** Do you have any particular perspective on how the City should grow in the next five to ten years? Required if interested in Planning and Transportation Commission, otherwise enter N/A.**

Over the next decade, I'd like to see San Carlos grow in a way that welcomes new neighbors and businesses, while retaining the small and welcoming feel that makes our city special. As we grow, it will be important to take advantage of enhanced pedestrian and cycling routes, as well as ensuring public transportation is accessible and useful. We also need to ensure affordable housing so that those that work in our community can continue to afford to live here throughout their careers and stages of life. Schools should should be safe for students to walk and bike to and we need to ensure that vehicle traffic (particularly at our middle schools) doesn't over congest the streets and surrounding communities. We need to maximize safety and efficiency as we grow. We also need to plan for climate resilience and quality of life. This means in development projects that we prioritize electrification in development and transport, water efficiency, and green space.

*** What do you think the City of San Carlos should do to attract and retain high quality businesses? Required if interested in Economic Development & Advisory Commission, otherwise enter N/A.**

N/A

*** What park improvements or recreational activities would be beneficial to the community? Required if interested in Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission, otherwise enter N/A.**

A few initiatives would delivery high return to San Carlos residents over the next few years and reinforce our small town vibrancy: - Continuation of Field improvements, maintenance and advanced scheduling: Ensuring fields are maintained, potential grass to turf conversions, planning for sufficient capacity across the exploding demand across all sports, making areas multi use and striped for multiple purposes, and lighting to maximize the useable space. Useful play structures: ensuring parks have shade rich play zones, and safe equipment that kids love to use. Using Burton park as a role model for what other parks could be. Redesigning the summer camp catalog to be more user friendly across multiple axes (age group, timing, subject matter) - Tree installations that address the seasonal aphid issues on Laurel street - Maximizing the opportunity provided by the new gathering and activity spaces in the Downtown Streetscape (chess corners, music events, art pop ups, etc).

*** Please list any other background information (business, education, personal) that might be useful in determining your eligibility.**

20+ years in business planning and development at industrial and technology companies, across the size spectrum of a 2 person start up to an 80,000 person company. Degrees in chemical engineering and economics from Rice University, and MBA from Harvard. Passionate about youth sports, education, and extra curricular activities with 3 small kids in San Carlos schools. Former board member and treasurer of Exploring New Horizons Outdoor School for two terms (6 years).

*** How long have you been a San Carlos resident and/or worked in San Carlos?**

We moved here in 2018

*** Are you related to a current City of San Carlos employee? If yes, please provide the employee's name.**

No

*** How did you hear about this recruitment?**

- ☐ City website
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ City Newsletter
- ☒ Council, Commission or City Staff referral
- ☒ Other

Acknowledgement of Responsibilities

Commissioners serving on the San Carlos Planning and Transportation Commission and the Economic Development Advisory Commission are designated filing officials required to submit a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) upon assuming office, as well as annually thereafter. Form 700 is a public document and will be made available upon request in accordance with disclosure laws.

Furthermore, these designated officials must complete mandatory Ethics Training pursuant to AB 1234.

*** By typing your name below, you confirm that the information provided in this form is true and accurate and acknowledge the above responsibilities and understand that your application is a public document which may be disclosed upon request.**

Michael Cohen
