

Katy Mijal

District 3 Alder Applicant

Contact

Madison, WI 53714

Dear Common Council Executive Committee

Please accept my application to serve for the remainder of Alder Lemmer's term in District 3, Madison Common Council. Attached is a biographical resume listing my experiences that may be relevant to this position.

Until the last few years, I spent minimal time researching local matters and knew very little about city governance or what alder people do. It was not until I met Tag Evers outside my tiny flat in the Greenbush Neighborhood and signed up to receive his emails that I started to pay attention. I remember Alder Evers asking what my partner and I thought about some new developments going up along Park Street. In fact, my partner and I did have concerns about the rapid increase in rental housing and the cost of the apartments in those new units. Instead of excusing/escaping himself to say he was on a search for his lost dog, Alder Evers shared some background to the development and his concerns, and told us that we should contact him when we have questions or feel motivated about something in our neighborhood. Two years later, my partner and I were fortunate to be able to afford a house in the Rolling Meadows neighborhood and a new world opened up to me.

When Alder Lindsay Lemmer asked if I would consider applying to fill the rest of her term, I chuckled. What do I know about city politics? I spent a couple weeks talking to friends, families, and neighbors. They all had similar responses – that I already have the compulsive desire to help people and make live's better in small ways, and that I put myself out there when it comes to talking with strangers and meeting new people. I always want to know what is going on and I cheer when options to share my thoughts come my way – like the survey put out for the Metro's Transit Network Redesign Plan. What Alder Lemmer was proposing is an opportunity to listen to my neighbors, investigate, ask questions, and talk to more people until I have a good idea of what other's would find helpful and is good for the city long term. Then I get to do something beyond filling out a survey – I get to take everything I learn and have a (stronger) voice in what my community should do.

Alder Lemmer was elected because people agreed with her agenda, or at least some of it. If I were to finish out Alder Lemmer's term, I would start with the items she is most passionate about, such as inclusive economic recovery from COVID-19, public health and safety like the mobile crisis unit, violence prevention, and Vision Zero. I also know that I would be able to continue her seat on some of her committees, including the Plan Commission and Board of Health for Madison and Dane County. My personal initiative as an alderperson would be to do what Alders

Evers and Lemmers did for me. They found a local politics-naïve Madisonian and helped guide her to be informed on city issues. The more my community peers realize they have a voice, the more they will be invested in their city and the changes happening, or that need to happen.

To accomplish these goals, I would continue to work closely with the 11 neighborhood associations in District 3. I would find mentors within the common council, city departments, and the community to help guide me in aldering and information gathering. I would have the benefit of actually getting to meet people face-to-face, and would work hard to catch up so I could take over where Alder Lemmer was.

Finally, I will answer to the best of my ability my interest in running for alderperson in Spring 2023. I realize that is less than a year away, and that I will need to make up my mind soon, but I really want to prove to myself that I can do this job well. It would be awful to “talk the talk” just to be elected to a position and fail my constituents. So, I don’t know.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application. I look forward to interviewing with you on Tuesday, May 17.

Sincerely,

Katy Mijal

Addendum – Note of Support

I would like to state my support of Robert Beets for District 3 Alderperson. Robert and I met with Alder Lemmer to learn about the position, expectations, and to hear about her work thus far and the pros/cons of being an alder. I first met Robert when my partner and I bought our first home in the Rolling Meadows neighborhood in December 2020. A postcard had gone out to introduce residents to the Rolling Meadows Neighborhood Association (RMNA) and invite them to attend a May 2021 meeting and express interest to serve on the board. Robert was voted in as Secretary that night. He has been the voice and public face of the RMNA since, and is the reason more people in our neighborhood are aware of the association and the activities taking place to meet other residents. Robert has a true passion for democracy and is invested in making sure people have access to vote, and why it is important that we use our right to vote. He demonstrates professionalism, organization, and a true spirit of inclusion. If the Common Council Executive Committee selects Robert Beets to complete Alder Lemmer’s term, I will support him fully and offer my assistance to his work in the position. Alder Lemmer was an exemplary Alder, and anyone is going to need help to fill her shoes!

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Education

University of Wisconsin –
Stevens Point, WI
Bachelor of Science, 2003
Majors in Biology, Spanish

University of Wisconsin –
Madison, WI
Preparatory Coursework,
College of Life Sciences,
2010 – Elective
coursework in human
physiology and
biochemistry

University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine &
Public Health
2011-12 Medical School

Objective

Live each day to its fullest. Incorporate my love of nature, health, and helping people to improve the lives of others. Become a steward of community engagement and encourage everyone to be included. And have fun!

Employment

Nov 2019 - Present

Recruitment & Retention Specialist • U.W. School of Medicine & Public Health (SMPH), Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease • Principal Investigator Dr. Ryan Westergaard

2006 – Present

Adult Climbing Instructor • Boulders Climbing Gym • Madison, WI

Sep 2017 – Oct 2019

Clinical Research Coordinator • U.W. SMPH, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Program for Research, Outreach, Therapeutics, and Education in the Addictions • Principal Investigator Dr. Randy Brown

Nov 2016 – July 2017

Research Database Manager • U.W. SMPH, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Division of Gynecologic Oncology and the U.W. Carbone Cancer Center • Principal Investigator Dr. Ahmed Al-Niaimi

2006 – 2007

Specimen Control and Receiving Technician • U.W. SMPH, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Division of Gynecologic Oncology and the U.W. Carbone Cancer Center • Department Director Dr. Laurel Rice

2002 – 2006

Clinic Manager • Good Neighbor Clinic of Sauk Prairie, Inc. • Prairie du Sac, WI • Medical Director Dr. Haakon Carlson

2000 – 2006

Assistant to the Taliesin Fellowship / Flower Gardener / Landscape & Residential Maintenance • Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation • Spring Green, WI

1997 – 2004

Tour Steward / Housekeeper / Historical Preservation • Taliesin Preservation, Inc. • Spring Green, WI

1994 – 1996

Farmer laborer on Wholesale Fruit & Vegetable Farm • The Berry Patch • Prairie du Sac, WI

Key Skills

Outgoing

Willing to embarrass myself (and my partner) by striking up conversations with random people

Intermediate proficiency in oral and written Spanish

Energetic – I will definitely need to throw the Frisbee before council meetings

Creative – So many ideas and so little time

Email and social media sufficient

Virtual meeting proficient (because everyone is at this point)

Common Sense

Leadership

➔ Co-founder of the College Women’s Ultimate Frisbee Team, Stevens Point, WI.

➔ On-site event coordinator for the Whole Foods Academy for Conscious Leadership, Scottsdale, AZ and Spring Green, WI.

➔ Stepmom to my partner’s son, Clark; fun and responsible Aunt to Lucy, Sam, Esme, Simon, and Annie; and trusted back-up mom for my friend’s kids (and pets) who single-mommed it for a long time.

➔ Worked in college as a social and educational mentor to a group of freshman students interested in natural resources and biology.

Neighborhood and Civic Experience

➔ I am an active participant of the Rolling Meadows Neighborhood Association. I attend meetings, encourage others to attend meetings and events, and support the board with many creative ideas and energy.

➔ I serve on the UW-Madison Academic Staff Information Technology Committee.

➔ In high school (yes, I need to go back-in-the-day!) I was the student council president my junior year.

➔ Again, in high school, I was awarded the opportunity to attend the Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

➔ Now college – I organized supporters and drafted a plan that I took to the Residential Life and Grounds Crews at UW Stevens Point to request installation of bat houses. (It was denied.)

➔ Vote! I do it, and I make sure everyone who will listen is planning to vote too!

➔ Volunteer with fellow neighbors to maintain the Heritage Park Ice Skating Rink.

➔ Planted the flower beds and kept them watered at the park signs in McGinnis Park

➔ Volunteer for local dog park clean-ups, trash pick-up, and garlic mustard pulls

➔ Plan chores that put me out front during peak dog-walking times in order to meet my neighbors.