The Recreation, Parks and Arts Advocacy Board is comprised of seven (7) residents of the City of Largo. The Mayor and each Commissioner shall appoint one (1) resident to serve as a member of the board to run concurrently with the term of office of the Mayor or Commissioner who appointed the member.

Commissioner Curtis Holmes is recommending the appointment of Dr. Kai Rush to the Recreation, Parks and Arts Advocacy Board for the remainder of a four-year term which will expire in November 2020. Dr. Rush will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Sue Porter, who served on this Board since April, 2000.

Title: APPOINTMENT OF DR. KAI RUSH AS A MEMBER OF THE RECREATION, PARKS AND ARTS ADVOCACY BOARD

Apply to Serve on an Advisory Board

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<th>Form Title</th>
<th>Form Application Started</th>
<th>Form Submission Deadline</th>
<th>Application Submitted</th>
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Contact Information

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<td>Rush</td>
<td><a href="mailto:disneyfunteacher@gmail.com">disneyfunteacher@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>479-6969</td>
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Application Form

This application is intended to provide information that will enable the City Commission to select the best Board members possible. Some Boards require sponsorship by a City Commissioner or participating organization. Please complete all applicable sections and then click "submit". If you have any questions you can contact the Mayor's Office at: (727) 587-6702 or commission@largo.com.

Application
Full Name Dr. Kai Rush

Home Address:
2408 8th Avenue SW  City: Largo  Zip: 33770

Work Address  City  Zip

Home Phone  Fax  Email disneyfunteacher@gmail.com

Preferred Mailing Address Residence  Business

How long have you lived in the City of Largo 3 years (9 years ago). Currently, Library Advisory Board Planning Board Public Works/Environmental Services.
1 month.  
Advisory Board Personnel Advisory Board Police/Fire Pension Board Recreation, Parks, and Arts Advisory Board.

Have you attended Largo Citizens Academy? Yes  No If so, what year?

Why are you interested in serving on this Board? My family is moving back to Largo, Florida from Elgin, Illinois, after nine years. For the last five years, I have served as an Image Commissioner for the City of Elgin and I would love to be on a board in Largo. I would love to lend my expertise, my passion for a great city (I was a former Largo High School teacher and resident) and promote the awesome Parks and Recreation department in Largo, Florida. I believe a strong parks and recreation department, library and strong government makes a city a destination where everyone wants to live. More importantly, it makes a place that people call home and love where they are from!

Please list any specific qualifications, education or experience that would directly relate to the Board for which you are being recommended: - I have a B.S. degree in Social Science Education and a M.S. and Ph.D in Instructional Technology/ Educational Technology -I was a Pinellas County teacher at Dunedin High School and Largo High School. I am coming back into the system, as a high school teacher at Palm Harbor University High School. -My wife worked for Largo Recreation and I worked two years for Safety Harbor Recreation, as a camp counselor. Also, I have worked for the South Florida Leadership Camp, Boys & Girls Club and the Jewish Community Center, as a camp counselor and after-school counselor. - Currently, I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. My love of Florida and Pinellas County has led us back to Pinellas County and the university has asked me to stay on staff, as an online adjunct professor, creating a course called Technology for Teachers.

Organization or Commissioner sponsoring nomination (if applicable)

Education Level Completed High School  Associates  Bachelors  Masters  Doctoral  JD/MD

Major Areas of Study Education- Instructional Technology

Other Experience or skills that may be valuable to the Board I feel I am very well known throughout the Largo and Pinellas County communities, though I have been absent for nine years. I love this community and moved back to where we will spend the rest of our lives, raise our two boys and continue our teaching careers.
Are you willing to meet at least monthly for a Board Meeting? Yes  No

Are you generally available should a special meeting of the Board be necessary? Yes  No

Do you understand the duties and responsibilities of the Board? Yes  No
Dr. Kai Rush
2408 8th Avenue SW
Largo, Florida 33770
disneyfunteacher@gmail.com

I love Largo, Florida and plan to spend the rest of my life in this diverse, family-centered and loving community. With my background in education, technology and libraries, living and working in Illinois and Wisconsin, I bring a diverse background of knowledge back to Largo, Florida. Though Largo should be fiscally conservative and transparent with every tax dollar spent, we should make sure to maintain high quality parks, recreational activities and promote the arts. I love recreation, parks and the arts and believe it should be the center of any city to help create an environment of low stress, diversity and “community.”

Life Experience

- Recruited by Pinellas County Schools in 2000; taught at Dunedin and Largo High School; teaching at Palm Harbor University High School.
- Earned multiple degrees: BS- Social Science Education, University of North Florida (2000); MS- Instructional Technology, Northern Illinois University (2011); Ph.D- Instructional Technology, Northern Illinois University (2017).
- Served as a city of Elgin commission- Image committee from 2013-2018

Largo Experience

- Awarded a commendation from the Largo Police department
- Taught at Largo High School for 5 years (2004-2009)
- American Red Cross hurricane shelter volunteer- Largo High School
- Largo resident from 2007-2009; 2018-
- Children will attend school at Mildred Helms Elementary school and participate in the city of Largo recreation after-school program.
- Adopted-A-Mile program- Our family is adopting a mile of the Pinellas County trail in Largo to clean six times per year.

Recreation, Parks & Arts Experience

- City of Safety Harbor summer camp counselor- 2004-2006
- City of Largo recreation volunteer (various)
- Visited every Largo recreational area, park and the Largo cultural arts center.
- Attended many city of Largo events, such Relay for Life, Winter in Wonderland, Christmas Parade and many recreational and park events.
- An active volunteer and family man, who attends and supports recreational programs.

References

• Mr. James Feazell, Ridgecrest resident/ leader
• Mrs. Kim Black, Largo resident/ leader
• Mr. Bill Wright, Streamwood, IL Parks and recreation commissioner
• Mrs. Shannon Schafer, City of Safety Harbor recreation superintendent
• Mrs. Donna Mack, City of Safety Harbor recreation employee
• Mr. Ken Welch, Pinellas County Commissioner