



“Being interested in our community and passionate about our city is important.”

Erica Andersen
Plan and Zoning Commission

Meet Erica Andersen, one of our most energetic young volunteers in West Des Moines. As a second term Commissioner, Erica reviews development plans and spends 6 to 8 hours a month on Plan and Zoning Commission work. We appreciate all she does to make our community better for everyone. Erica, you make a difference!

We couldn't talk the first time because you were on the way to the hospital to give birth to your son. Congratulations! How old are your children?

Erica: Thank you! It's been a busy year. Our youngest, Nash, was born in late May, and our oldest, Dane, is 3 going on 30!

Your children are native-born Tigers or West Des Moinesians. Are you?

I grew up in Ft. Dodge and then in Gilbert, Iowa. I wasn't raised here, but I'm passionate about West Des Moines!

When did you move to West Des Moines?

About ten years ago. My husband, Jason, started a construction company here and I started working in the banking industry. That's when I began getting involved with the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce.

So, getting involved with the Chamber of Commerce kick-started your volunteerism bug?

Yes. I learned a lot by volunteering with the Chamber. I had a great time, and I wanted to see other young people thrive and grow and make a contribution to our community.

Exactly what is your job as a Plan and Zoning Commissioner?

We review all development plans by consulting the Comprehensive Land Use Map and our zoning rules and regulations. We also work with the city staff, listen to neighbors and the developers and then we make our recommendations to the City Council. The City Council makes the final decision.

How often does the P & Z Commission meet?

The Plan and Zoning Commission is completely transparent and that's important so everyone knows what's going on. We hold our public meetings every other Monday at 5:30 p.m. I spend about 6-8 hours a month on Commission work and that includes prep time and meetings.

What skill sets are important for a Commissioner?

Knowing something about development, real estate and finance is helpful. Being interested in our community and passionate about our city is important. If you are interested, you can fill out an [application](#) on the City's website.

What's your vision for the future of the Commission?

I hope we continue to have the best interests of our community in mind and sometimes that is hard because there can be a lot of competing interests in any development project. I hope our City continues to grow and prosper.

What do you do in your spare time...if you have any?

I like spending time with the family just relaxing on the patio because I don't have time for much else right now.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Reality TV like “Big Brother” and the Food Channel. Cooking comfort food (lasagna & homemade meatballs) is my specialty.

What's on your bucket list?

More family travel! We went to New York last year, but I would love to go back to do the Bronx Zoo.

