



2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES CANDIDATE

NAME: Chris Schmitt

LENGTH OF OHIO CITY RESIDENCY: 8 years

EXPERIENCE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE:

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|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACCOUNTING | <input type="checkbox"/> DEVELOPER/BUILDER | <input type="checkbox"/> HUMAN RESOURCES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BILINGUAL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LEGAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY ACTIVIST | <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE/LENDING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARKETING |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FUNDRAISING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUTREACH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRANT WRITING | <input type="checkbox"/> REAL ESTATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DESIGN/ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC PRESERVATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRATEGIC PLANNING |

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Why do you wish to serve on the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees?

I want to retain my position on the Ohio City Inc. Board of Trustees to continue to guide the impressive growth and development of our neighborhood in a formal capacity. These continue to be exciting times in the history of our city and our neighborhood and I feel strongly that I am an ideal candidate in terms of skills, relevant experience, and energy to help lead our neighborhood forward. Ohio City is on a great trajectory and I am committed to helping that trend line continue. I look forward to continuing to help Ohio City become the most complete urban neighborhood in the Country. I've lived on West 26th Street with my wife Melissa and our son for the past 7 years. We're expecting a daughter in April of this year and cannot wait to raise her in Ohio City!

My interest in the Board is related to 3 issues:

- Growth: To continue to fulfill our potential, we need to invest our time and resources on sustainable, community focused growth that includes a wide variety of businesses and housing. I promise to be an advocate for strategic, sustainable growth that complements our existing infrastructure while diligently maintaining our core identity as a walkable, affordable, family centric, and diverse urban neighborhood.

- Communication: The staff of OCI, along with the Councilman and other community advocates, has done a great job of informing the community of happenings and promoting the community to the wider region. That said, there's still more to do. I promise to use my professional marketing experience and passion for the neighborhood to empower others to market Ohio City to their neighbors, to visitors, and to the world as a great place to live, work, visit, worship, and play.

- Safety: As a transitioning urban community, we must remain ever aware of the safety challenges that are facing our neighborhood. We need to make sure that our safety efforts are targeted at protecting residents and visitors and are accurately communicated to those fully shun our (largely misinformed) reputation as a dangerous place to be. I promise to make all decisions with community safety fully in mind as a top priority for homeowners, renters, business owners, community institutions, and visitors.

Please describe your experience in the areas checked in Part 2. Include any special achievements and/or experiences that you feel would enhance the organization.

I am a professional marketer and lawyer with a passion for community service and a history of non-profit leadership and consensus building. I believe that the collective sum of my education and my global experience will be a great benefit to the Ohio City Board. Here are some details (please see my resume for a full description of these activities):

- Professional Work: Global Marketing Director, Pentair (2013-Present); Director of Marketing and General Counsel, American Roll Form (2011-2013); Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, Insivia Strategic Marketing (2009-2011)

- Education: Juris Doctor with Honors, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (2009); Masters of Business Administration with Honors, Weatherhead School of Management, CWRU (2009); Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude, Hiram College (2004)

- Community Involvement: Past President of the Hiram College Alumni Executive Board; Past Vice President of the West Shore Chorale Board of Trustees; Board Consultant and Senior Staff Counselor of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State.

Describe your involvement in Ohio City neighborhood organizations, or Ohio City Incorporated sponsored committees, projects, or block clubs.

I have been an active Trustee for the Ohio City Board for the past five years and have had the honor of being elected President in 2016 following a year as the Board Secretary. I Co-Chaired our most recent Strategic Planning Committee, was the former Chair of the Governance Committee, and served on the Marketing and Safety Committees. My wife and I are active in the BCJ Block Club and have participated many times in the Ohio City Shines Program. We have been active organizers and participants in the major Ohio City events including Evening in Ohio City and the Street Festival over the past eight years and look forward to continuing our service in the future. Plus, we fly our Ohio City flag with pride!

Describe your involvement in non-Ohio City neighborhood organizations/activities.

My ongoing service to the community is one of the great joys of my life. I have served for the past 18 years as a Senior Staff Counselor and Consultant for the American Legion Buckeye Boys State Program, a leadership and community engagement program that draws 1,500 high school students each summer. I'm the immediate past President of the Hiram College Alumni Executive Board and the immediate past Vice President of the West Shore Chorale. I also assist numerous non-profit organizations as pro-bono legal counsel.