

## Kelly Passauer

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**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** Kelly Passauer  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board Application

### Board Application

Board Applying For:	Independence Recreation Commission
Name	Erica Cope
Date	11/30/1984
Address	511 Taylor Rd
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Educational Background:	
High School Name and Location	Manhattan High School, Manhattan, KS
Graduated/Degree	2003
College Name and Location	Missouri Southern State University
Graduated/Degree	2009/BS
Major	Sociology
Other Education Name and Location	Kansas State University
Graduated/Degree	2019/Masters
Emphasis	Youth Development
Do you reside inside the corporate limits of the City of Independence?	Yes
If no, do you reside within 3 miles of the corporate limits of the City of Independence?	<i>Field not completed.</i>

What experiences have you had that you feel would assist you as a board member?

My thesis for my Master's Degree was on Positive Youth Development through sport and throughout grad school, I took numerous classes on program design and implementation as well as grant writing which I believe would make me an asset to the board. As one of the founders of the Independence Football Club and the founder of the Indy Youth Cheer program, I know what it takes to create and sustain quality youth-focused programs. I am also a published author so I am well-versed in the importance of marketing via social media which can be useful in spreading awareness and providing important information to the community.

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Why do you want to become a member of the board?

I want to be a member of the board because I believe in the importance of youth sports and the positive impact that quality programs can have on youth. Youth Centers should be exactly that: YOUTH centers. If that isn't the focus, then it's time for a change. Effective youth centers bring a wide range of benefits to not only youth but to their families and the community as well. I know that with my knowledge and experience I can work to implement policies that will greatly improve the quality of programs offered for the youth in our community.

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Do you feel that there are any issues needing immediate attention by the board? If so, please explain.

Equipment is a huge issue. There's no reason that volunteer coaches should be purchasing baseball equipment for the teams they are coaching because the equipment they are provided is too big or doesn't work right anymore (aka catcher's gear that the velcro is worn down). Equipment should be updated and inspected regularly as it is a safety hazard otherwise.

There should also be more structured and supervised activities provided at the youth center. I would love to see enrichment programs added to the youth center during the summer as well as more structured activities provided after school. If we are asking families to pay membership fees, we need to provide more quality opportunities for the youth in our community.

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Other comments: *Field not completed.*

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