

**Application to Serve**

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**Committee Choice****Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Planning Commission: Submitted

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Qualifications required for the MPO SUP Advisory Committee Position.

Question applies to multiple boards

**Of Committees Marked How Many Meetings Have You Attended?**

More than 50

Question applies to multiple boards

**New Member**

Yes  No

Question applies to multiple boards

**Returning Member**

Yes  No

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**Profile**

Kate

First Name

Mcdonald Sergeant

Last Name

6020 DINKINS LAKE RD

Street Address

Suite or Apt

SANIBEL

City

FL

State

33957

Postal Code

Home: (239) 314-9809

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

kmsergeant@gmail.com

Email Address

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**NUMBER OF MONTHS RESIDING ON SANIBEL ANNUALLY**

12

**Year Round Resident**

Yes  No

Great Prairie Risk Solutions

and On Island

Employer

Lawyer and Owner of Small

Local Buisness

Occupation

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## **BACKGROUND: (EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE)**

### **Required Information**

Kate Sergeant is General Counsel for Great Prairie Risk Solutions where she's worked since 2008 shortly after it opened its doors. In addition to her general counsel duties, Ms. Sergeant provides litigation management, loss prevention consultation and outside counsel services to Great Prairie's clients. Kate has broad knowledge of the various legal issues facing businesses, especially in the multi-family housing and hospitality arenas. Kate is the co-owner/founder of a popular retail shop, On Island, that sells Sanibel and Captiva gear that she designs. She was an adjunct professor at Florida Gulf Coast University in the Legal Studies Department teaching a variety of courses. Kate has been an attorney since 1995. She started her legal career as a criminal prosecutor in Chicago. She eventually joined a law firm and then worked for Credit Suisse First Boston in their private client services division. She then served as an in-house counsel for a national non-profit organization. Ms. Sergeant earned her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois - Chicago Law School.

[KMS - Sergeant\\_Resume - Planning\\_Commission.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

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## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **Required Information**

Kate has a long history of non-profit work and has served on many non-profit Boards. She is currently serving on the Board of Trustees of Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and she is working with Coastal Watch to help restore the oyster beds of the coast of Sanibel. She served as Vice-President and is the Chair of the Advocacy Committee of the Zonta Club of Sanibel and Captiva, a non-profit organization that empowers women and girls through advocacy and service. She has also served on the Boards of CHR, Island Water Association and the Bailey Matthews Shell Museum.

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## **WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS APPOINTMENT?**

## Required Information

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I have been honored to serve on the Planning Commission and am re-submitting my application with the hope of continuing to serve Sanibel in this capacity. I believe my time as a Planning Commissioner has demonstrated my ability to correctly interpret the Sanibel Plan and to balance the desire to live in harmony with our environment and protect it while enabling people and businesses to rebuild and thrive. It's important to have a balanced Planning Commission and I believe City Council has attained that with our current Commissioners. We have those who favor owner's rights and those who are more protective of the environment. I believe I am in the middle and can clearly see both sides and balance the interests of both. Continuity is also important. We have many new Commissioners who are still learning and finding their footing, and we all benefit from the experiences and knowledge of the Commissioners who have already served terms. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to serve on the Planning Commission and continue our important work. I am including what I wrote on my original application because it still applies: I want to be on the Planning Commission because it is very important to me and vital to our community that the "unique and natural characteristics of the Island ... be preserved". (The Sanibel Plan) We must be good stewards of this unique and beautiful sanctuary island. I raised my children on Sanibel and they attended The Sanibel so I know the importance of our school and the need to attract young families to support it. I opened a business on Sanibel in 2015 and know the challenges of owning and growing a small tourist-based business in an environmentally sensitive area. Preserving nature and growing our businesses are not mutually exclusive goals. Quite the opposite - people visit and live here "to live in harmony with one another and with nature". (The Sanibel Vision Statement) The Sanibel Plan is our guiding document and North Star. It is our Constitution. We must follow and interpret the spirit of the plan as the drafters intended: to preserve our "unique and natural characteristics". As an attorney, I have the background and expertise to read and apply the law as it was intended. I have been able to support the spirit of Sanibel's Vision Statement by volunteering for and serving on the board of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. Since Hurricane Ian, I have become very concerned about pressures from some on the island and many outside of it to abandon the guiding principles of the Sanibel Plan. This concern is the catalyst for my application today.

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## **MPO Application to submit for your respective Advisory Committee**

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**Please be certain you have completed the "Background: (Education & Experience)", "Community Involvement", and "Why Are You Interested In This Appointment?" text box fields before submitting your application. Thank you.**

**Please Enter In Today's Date**

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11/19/2025

**Name of Applicant**

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Kate McDonald Sergeant

**Kate McDonald Sergeant**  
239.314.9809 | [kate@onislandsanibel.com](mailto:kate@onislandsanibel.com)

**Summary of Experience on Sanibel**

I volunteered at The Sanibel School helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the eight years my children attended the school. I am now honored to sit on the boards of Community Housing Resources, The Bailey-Mathews Shell Museum, Island Water Association, SCCF and the Zonta Club of Sanibel and Captiva.

In 2015 I started a business, On Island, that relies on Sanibel's tourist economy. Owning a business on Sanibel presents many unique challenges in addition to seasonal revenue, and we managed to survive them all - red tide, Covid and Hurricanes Irma and Ian.

Sanibel has always been in my heart and is at the heart of my family.

**Summary of General Experience:**

I am an attorney with a diverse legal and business background. I have prosecuted criminal defendants in Chicago, Illinois, worked for an international investment firm in private client services, and wore many legal hats at a national non-profit organization. I am currently General Counsel for a growing company and provide risk management consulting services for clients with national commercial real estate holdings. I passed the Florida bar in 2022 and I am also an adjunct professor at Florida Gulf Coast University teaching various legal subjects.

**Current Employment**

**Great Prairie Risk Solutions, Inc.**

**General Counsel October 2008 to Present** • Provide risk management consulting services and manage litigation on behalf of clients with large, national real estate investments  
• Opened and manage the Florida satellite office on Sanibel

**On Island**

**Founder and Co-Owner December 2015 to Present** • Created the On Island brand that connects visitors and residents to Sanibel and Captiva Islands.

**Florida Gulf Coast University**

**Adjunct Professor in Legal Studies August, 2022 to Present**

• Develop and teach course curriculum on various legal subjects

**Non-profit Experience**

**Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) - December 2023 to present** Board Member

**Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum -December 2022 to Present**

Board Member

**Community Housing Resources June, 2019 to Present** • Board Member

**Island Water Association June, 2020 to Present** • Board Member and Secretary to the Board

**Zonta International - Sanibel and Captiva Chapter January 2017 to Present**

Vice President, Board Member and Chair of the Advocacy Committee

**The Sanibel School 2011 to 2020** • Vice President of PTA for two years, served a total of eight years. President of the Student Advisory Council for four years having served on the council for five years.

**The Sanibel Community House 2012 to 2014** • Board Member

**Rape Victim Advocates 1993-1995, 2001-2003** • In Chicago, Illinois - Medical and Legal Advocate for sexual assault survivors  
• Board Member 2001 to 2003

**Past Experience**

**Alzheimer's Association**

**Associate Director in the National Office 2002 to May 2006** • General legal work for the Association

**Credit Suisse First Boston**

**Associate Private Client Services May 2000 to May 2002** • Identified and developed new clients and advised regarding wealth management and wealth transfer strategies

**Cook County State's Attorney's Office**

**Assistant State's Attorney May 1993 to May 1999**

**EDUCATION**

Admitted to the Illinois State Bar and Federal Bar: October 1995

Admitted to the Florida Bar: September 2022

University of Illinois Chicago School of Law: 1992-1995

Juris Doctor: June 1995

Northwestern University: 1985-1989

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science