



Candidate Name: Chris Timko

KCDG: #897

PDGA: #8525

Education: High School - Arkansas School for the Mathematics and Sciences - Class of 2000
Undergraduate - University of Arkansas - Bachelors of Computer Engineering - Class of 2005
Graduate - University of Iowa - Masters of Computer Science - Class of 2007

Occupation: Engineering Manager at Cerner Corporation

Year of Birth: 1981

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Disc Golf Experience (including the year you first played):

I played my first round of disc golf in 2002 at the now defunct Gulley Park in Fayetteville, Arkansas. After moving a few blocks from the same course in 2003, I immediately got hooked on the game before relocating to Iowa City, Iowa. While there, I was exposed to just how big disc golf was in the Midwest, playing events and helping with a few workdays on the courses.

Disc Golf played a role in my after-college decision to move to Kansas City. Shortly after my move here in 2007, I connected with Kansas City Flying Disc Club, and served on the Executive Committee as Secretary. During my time on the Committee from 2007 to 2013 (which became a Board of Directors), I served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Swope Course Coordinator. Some of my accomplishments included running Swope disc golf league, running a handicapped match play league (and calculating round ratings for every player of every league for a year), implementing much of the financial system used by league directors to this day, as well as participating in a host of workdays throughout the Metro. I was also fortunate to be given the opportunity to carry on the tradition of Swope Gold from 2008 to 2018 at Old Swope. This was used for a number of Kansas City Wide Open tournaments as well as the 2009 PDGA Pro/Am Worlds.

After a brief break from serving at an executive level in the Kansas City area, I re-joined the Board of Directors of KCFDC in 2017, serving as Vice President of Missouri. While in that role, I was able to learn from many of those who have served before me in how to continue to build the relationships we have with various parks partners. In 2018, I began my first year as President, and was one of the people involved with the decision to form Kansas City Disc Golf, a 501(c)3 devoted to building disc golf in the metro area. I worked with our lawyer to help complete the required government paperwork, which was accepted in the winter of 2019. While President of KCDG, I've worked to secure and renew several contracts with our park's partners. I also helped lead the effort in 2020 to help our parks partners and KCDG navigate the coronavirus pandemic in terms of events and league planning.

While my tournament directing experience pales in comparison to some of the others in the metro, I was proud to serve as the Event Director for the 2019 Kansas City Ice Bowl and the Tournament Director of the 2019 Kansas City Wide Open. My home address is in Missouri, but I am proud to call Rosedale Park my home course and am a member of Rogue of Rosedale. You can often see me with my dog Pender out there.

Professional Experience:

Since graduating in 2007, I have been employed at Cerner Corporation in the IP Development sector of the company. I began as a software engineer before graduating to a software architect, then finally an engineering manager. I feel that this occupation has provided me with many skills that help my ability to serve on a Board of Directors. Engineering often involves finding solutions to problems that don't have clear solutions, forcing me to weigh pros and cons before deciding the best outcome. The engineering team I work with involves integrating multiple concepts across the company. I must communicate with these teams, understand their needs, and determine a good way forward for everyone involved. Cerner demands accountability, and as an engineering manager, I am ultimately responsible for the work my team commits to delivering. Finally, as a manager, I must find a way to grow my team by taking everyone's individual talents, determine how to best use them, and apply them toward common goals. My job as manager involves more listening than talking, and more planning before carrying out a decision. These set of work skills I believe aid in any position I would serve on Kansas City Disc Golf's Board of Directors.

Chris' Platform:

While I strive to fulfill all the points in our mission statement, my passion lies in the three topics outlined below:

Continue to build relationships between KCDG and government municipalities: Kansas City has enjoyed over 3 decades of partnerships with parks and recreation partners, building our community into the hub of disc golf we know today. This has happened in part to the written agreements and constant communication we have with these departments. I would like to continue to grow these relationships, working with parks and recreation departments to improve our current course footprint and help cast vision on how to expand it.

Empower volunteers: KCDG is a volunteer organization, and the impact it makes in the community is only as strong as the volunteers who lead that impact. Over my time on KCDG, I have helped new course coordinators and league directors become connected to the courses those individuals wish to serve. I've also aided tournament directors with carrying forward their vision in growing disc golf within the city at a competitive level. This is something I wish to continue.

Strive to be open to the members and the public: It's imperative that those in charge of KCDG remain transparent to both the membership in the public. From meeting minutes to financial reports, the Board must be held accountable to its members. KCDG has set the precedent from a financial perspective with our public 501(c)3 disclosure as well as our 2019 tax returns. I will ensure that this type of financial disclosure remains open going forward. I would also like to continue to ensure that the Board of Directors minutes are published in a timely manner, allowing the public to engage with the Board. Finally, I think it's important that every member of the Board be available to answer questions and engage in conversation from the membership and the public. This has been something that I've focused on over my 2 years as a KCDG Board member, and something that will continue into my next term.

Thank you for your time, and if you have any questions I could individually answer, please don't hesitate to reach out and start a conversation.