

The Ohio State University Student Chapter Spotlight

Name: Jonathan Weeks

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

School Attending: The Ohio State University

Degree(s) Pursuing: Masters in Public Administration with a minor in City and Regional Planning

Degree(s) Earned: Bachelors of Science in Sport Management, with minors in Economics and Business Administration, from Texas A&M University



Past or Current Mentors: Lance Jackson, now former Supervisor of the Lincoln Recreation Center in College Station, Texas. Mr. Lance was the person who pointed me in the direction of the Masters in Public Administration degree and told me that I had the skills to succeed in local government. He imparted a lot of wisdom, both professionally and personally, to me in our two and a half years together.

When and how did you become interested in a career in local government? After I started working at the Lincoln Recreation Center during my undergrad, I was exposed to the world of Parks and Recreation and as a whole, local government. My supervisors recognized my desire to learn more about the industry and gave me more responsibilities and opportunities to grow within it. I was exposed to the workings of a recreation center, after-school programming, athletic coordination, and city hosted events.

Do you have a special local government area of interest? I am interested in Economic Development, specifically in Taxpayer Utility. This means that when taxpayer money is used to fund public projects, I want to make sure the average taxpayer is receiving some sort of proportional utility or benefit back. I also want to explore how Sports Diplomacy can be applied in local government, using sports as a way to bring communities closer together across social and economic barriers.

Short-term goal (next 5 years): To be in Parks and Recreation management.

Long-term goal (next 10 years): To be on track for City Management.

How would you describe yourself? I would describe myself as a highly personable, responsible, and tenacious individual. There is no challenge too great to not learn how to overcome it.

Favorite Quote: "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough." – Albert Einstein