Two candidates applied to replace Chris St. Clair, who resigned in early July.

Brandt and Feaster both applied and were interviewed by the village board on April 11, 2023. Both candidates were given five minutes at the Aug. 11 meeting to introduce themselves, followed by an opportunity for the board to ask questions to the candidates.

“I believe that as leaders of the village, you need someone who looks at different perspectives and viewpoints and listens to people,” Brandt said. “We’re always learning and growing. It’s a group effort and I think coming together and providing a safe place for people to ask questions can tear those walls down.”

In addition to her role on the DEI committee, Brandt is a member of the McFarland Equity Project, which is a group focused on increasing diversity and leading inclusivity within the village while increasing sustainability efforts along with increasing communication between the village and the community. She said she thought this would be a great opportunity as a way to serve and get involved in a larger way in her community.

“I saw this position and I thought this would be a great opportunity for the board to connect people, especially with the community,” Feaster said.

**App designed to connect people, community**

Monona’s new mobile app is designed to help connect both residents and tourists with the city and local businesses.

Discover Monona, which is available for both Android and iOS, was released in July by the Monona East Side Business Alliance (MESBA) and features eat, shop, play and live sections.

The app eclipsed 100 unique users earlier this week, MESBA executive director Devin Renner said. He added that he hopes the app becomes a “resource for residents to connect with the community and for the city to connect with residents.”

“You can pay your utility bill, get information about trash pickup schedules, connect to the police, all sorts of different things like that directly through the app,” Renner said. Renner estimated between 450 and 500 local businesses are included on the app, with hours of operation, contact information, a website link and the address available for each.

The eat and shop sections feature restaurants and stores, respectively, while the play section includes recreational opportunities in the area and an events page.

**Biergarten of the Beach**

The Monona Parks and Recreation Department hosted one of its biergarten events at the San Damiano property on Thursday, Aug. 11, with beer, live music, concessions, ice cream, a lakefront view and an update on the San Damiano property planning process.

**Sports**

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