

Date September 9, 2019

Communication from Aaron Todd advising of his resignation from the Historic Preservation Commission, Seat 12, effective immediately.

Moved by _____ to receive, file, and accept resignation with appreciation for his service.

Replacement to be appointed by Mayor Cownie.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
BOESEN				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
MANDELBAUM				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Mayor

City Clerk

Brown, Rachel M.

From: Rauh, Diane I.
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Brown, Rachel M.
Cc: Baumgartner, Laura L.
Subject: FW: HPC Resignation

From: Aaron Todd [mailto:aatodd@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Rauh, Diane I.; Gray, William S.
Cc: Van Essen, Jason M.; MICHAEL P HILDEBRAND; Breann Bye
Subject: HPC Resignation

Councilman Gray:

It is with regret that I formally write to inform you of my decision to resign my position on the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the City of Des Moines, effective immediately. It has been a pleasure serving with all the talented individuals on this Commission and staff that support it.

I recently moved out of the River Bend Neighborhood. While I continue to live in one of Des Moines' local historic districts and support the ordinance, my role has been as River Bend representative and that neighborhood, which I continue to adore, deserves to have equal representation.

I want to note as I depart that the Commission has been for years and continues today to lack sufficient enforcement capacity. The intention of the ordinance is not to be punitive; however, River Bend has numerous instances of projects begun without permission, significant delays by city inspection to stop work, and lack of capacity to work with property owners to come into compliance (there are properties in River Bend whose violation notices are multiple years old at this point). When the process works as it should, the Commission and City staff are pleasant to work with and helpful to property owners. When resources are insufficient, property owners are typically frustrated by a process that can start to feel punitive, as are some neighbors who see the goals of the ordinance undermined as they witness disparate treatment provided to those property owners who comply and those who do not. The ordinance is important to the future improvement of neighborhoods like River Bend - but that better future and consistent enforcement of the ordinance can only happen if there is sufficient staff capacity. I encourage you to inquire about and advocate for ways to enhance the City staff's capacity to work on matters under the purview of the Commission.

I wish nothing but success for the Historic Preservation Commission members and staff, and the neighborhoods that they work within. It's been an honor to serve.

Warmly,

Aaron Todd