

February 16, 2016

My name is Fred Dorsey, I live at 10774 Judy Lane in Columbia, MD and I am President of Preservation Howard County.

CR 12-2016 calls for the confirmation of Jonathan Bos to the Historic Preservation Commission. An appointment to the Commission requires specific knowledge and/or experience in the fields of architecture, archeology, anthropology, curation, preservation, history or urban design to deliberate and rule on the cases involving historic preservation restorations and in many cases financial considerations of the applicants. Mr. Bos's resume does not indicate having the required knowledge and/or experience in any of these areas and therefore the confirmation should not be approved



Historic Preservation Commission Membership Requirements and Responsibilities

The following requirements are from Section 16.604 from the County Code and are the basic requirements to be a Commission member:

- Be a resident of Howard County
- The Commission shall include at least one resident or property owner from each historic district in Howard County.
- Members shall be professionals in or have special interest, knowledge, or training in such fields:
 - Architecture
 - Archeology
 - Anthropology
 - Curation
 - History
 - Preservation
 - Urban Design
 - Or related disciplines
- Member shall have knowledge of and have demonstrated an interest in the preservation of historic and architectural areas of the County.

Commission Meetings

Historic Preservation Commission meetings (formerly known as Historic District Commission meetings) are generally the first Thursday of every month, unless a holiday requires different scheduling. One week prior to the meeting Staff will mail out the application packets to the Commission members for review prior to the meeting. The packets contain: the previous month's minutes that need to be read so they can be approved at the upcoming meeting, the current applications for review and a copy of the staff reports. Commission members are expected to review all of these items ahead of time and visit the site of each application prior to the meeting. There are many instances where an application doesn't fully make sense on paper, but is better understood visiting the site.

At the monthly HPC meeting, the Commission has the following regular duties, in addition to hearing and voting on the current cases:

- 1) All Commission members sign the Decision and Orders (D&O's) from the previous month's cases. This allows those Applicants to proceed with their work.
- 2) Additionally, the Chair signs the previous month's minutes and any tax credit pre-approval forms. This allows staff to issue the minutes to the previous month's applicants and post on the web as required by the County Code.

Missing a Meeting

- 1) **Notification:** If a Commission member must miss a meeting they are expected to notify Staff ahead of time. Staff needs to ensure that all other members are able to attend and that there will be a quorum for the meeting.
- 2) **Quorum:** If there is no quorum (less than 3 HPC members), the meeting must be rescheduled, which requires one week of legal advertising, delaying the ability to quickly reschedule any cancelled meetings. This delays the work for the Applicants.
- 3) **Signatures:** Assuming the meeting has a quorum without the absent member, it is very important for the absent Commission member to check their email in the week after the meeting, as Staff will have scanned and emailed copies of the Decision and Order (D&O) that was signed at the missed meeting. Staff will need the absent member to review the D&O and authorize Staff via email to sign on their behalf, or to stop by the County building and sign the paperwork. This is necessary so that Staff can issue all Approval documents in a timely manner to the Applicants.
- 4) **Attendance:** Absence for illness or important events is understandable and excusable. However, if an HPC member has three consecutive absences from regular public meetings, the Chairperson must notify the County Executive that the position is deemed vacant.

Areas of Review and Types of Applications

The Commission reviews and approves applications from all over the County. This includes applications from: the Ellicott City and Lawyers Hill Historic Districts, properties listed on the Historic Sites Inventory (over 1,000 listed) and any historic structure in the County (for Advisory Comments only).

The Commission reviews and approves a variety of applications. The different types of applications include:

- 1) **Advisory Comments for subdivision and site development plans.**
 - a. Includes properties within the two historic districts or any historic structure in the County undergoing a subdivision or site development plan.
- 2) **Pre-application advice (prior to submitting for a Certificate of Approval)**
 - a. Technical advice regarding repairs to windows, siding, or other material replacement and repair.
- 3) **General Application for Certificate of Approval**
 - a. For properties seeking exterior alterations in the Ellicott City and Lawyers Hill Historic Districts
- 4) **Tax Credit Pre-Approval and Final Tax Credit Approval**
 - a. For historic structures in the Ellicott City and Lawyers Hill Historic District, as well as any historic structure listed on the Historic Sites Inventory.
- 5) **Reviews changes to the Commission's Rules of Procedures, County Code, and reviews applications for architectural compatibility related Zoning matters (such as conditional uses on historic buildings and the new R-H-ED zoning designation).**

Additional Information

For more information about being a Commission member, please contact Samantha Holmes at 410-313-4428 or sholmes@howardcountymd.gov. More information regarding the Commission and Historic Preservation can be found: www.howardcountymd.gov/historic_preservation.htm. If interested in submitting your name for the HPC, please send a letter of interest along with your bio/resume to the County Executive's Office, Attn: David Lee at DKLee@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-3395.

February 16, 2016

Howard County Executive Kittleman
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE- CR12-2016, Appointment of Mr. Jonathan Bos to Historic Preservation Commission

To the Howard County Executive and County Council Members-

My name is Allan Shad and I live in the Ellicott City Historic District at 3618 Fels Lane. I am currently serving an appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission and was voted to be its Chairman this past October, 2015. My current appointment on the commission will conclude July 1, 2017, although I do hope to receive reappointment for an additional 5-year term at that time.

I would like to thank you all for providing this opportunity for the community to speak on behalf of and/ or against pending legislation.

I am here to testify specifically regarding the pending appointment of Mr. Jonathan Bos to the Historic Preservation Commission. Although I do not know Mr. Bos personally, I wish to register my opposition to this particular appointment, for the following specific reasons:

- It is my understanding that nobody at the Department of Planning & Zoning was made aware of this pending appointment.
- There is nobody currently serving on the Historic Preservation Commission who knows this person or was made aware of his pending appointment.
- In accordance with his "resume", Mr. Bos is a high school English teacher, who apparently teaches Literature and Composition at Walter Johnson High School in Montgomery County.
- There is nothing in his "resume" that provides any indication whatsoever regarding his background or even an interest in history, architecture, archeology, anthropology, curation, preservation, urban design or any related disciplines.
- Although he may be a resident of Howard County, he has submitted absolutely nothing that demonstrates his interest of or desire to preserve anything historical in Howard County.

Over the past 4+ years that I have served on this board, there have been several individuals who have been appointed to or who have recently resigned from our ranks. With the exception of one specific individual, all of the appointees were fully vetted by current members of the commission and/or the Department of Planning & Zoning staff who oversee the activities of the Historic Preservation Commission. The one exception to that process materialized a couple of years ago when an individual attempted to join the HPC as a means to gain access to another board totally

unrelated to the activities of the HPC. That individual never attended a commission meeting and was eventually dismissed from the commission in accordance with the required procedures and regulations outlined in the county code.

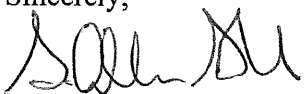
As to the county code, under Subtitle 6 – Historic District Commission, Section 16.604, paragraph (b), titled Membership and Appointments, Item (3) under Qualifications, it states that “Members shall be professionals in or have special interest, knowledge, or training in such fields as history, architecture, archeology, anthropology, curation, preservation, urban design or related disciplines and shall have knowledge of and have demonstrated an interest in the preservation of historic and architectural areas of the County.” I contend that every one of the commissioners currently serving this board meet those qualifications and consistently demonstrate their interest and desire to preserve and to protect the historic and architectural resources of Howard County.

It is also my observation that the cases that we are asked to review are becoming more and more complex, containing multiple aspects and levels of concern. These are serious cases that must be carefully scrutinized and deliberated by competent professionals. Not mere novices.

The dedicated staff that we work with at the Department of Planning and Zoning should also be assured that the members of the commission possess the competence required to remain focused on making the correct decisions that will follow and uphold the guidelines of the board. That is the least that we can and should be doing.

In closing, let me emphasize that although the commissioners are unpaid, community volunteers, we still possess a tremendous longing to see that the few remaining historic and architectural resources will remain for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Allan Shad', written in a cursive style.

S. Allan Shad

Chairman

Howard County Historic Preservation Commission

Testimony on February 16, 2016

RE: CR 12-2016 Appointment of Mr. Jonathan Bos to Historic Preservation Commission

Howard County Council Members –

I have been an environmental graphic designer working with urban designers, planners, architects and landscape architects since 1981, and I have served on the Historic Preservation Commission since 2009. Prior to joining the commission I had discussions with county planning staff and a then-serving commissioner to understand the commitment of time and energy required. I attended two monthly meetings of the commission as an observer. I submitted a letter to the county council describing my interest in historic preservation and my resume outlining my relevant professional experience. I appeared before the council to express my interest in serving and to answer questions. This process, which should be followed in the nomination of any member of the commission was not followed in the case of Mr. Bos.

I wish I could say that this process and my own professional experience completely prepared me to meet the challenges of serving on this commission! The truth is that I have learned a tremendous amount during the time I have served from both the county staff and my fellow commissioners, who exhibit the highest caliber of knowledge, experience, wisdom, compassion and common sense. Administering the preservation guidelines in way that balances the needs and rights of today's residents with preservation of our historic places for future generations is a challenge and a great responsibility. Preservation is essential to the future of the county and commissioners should be vetted with careful consideration.

Thanks for allowing me to testify on this matter.

Eileen Tennor
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Columbia MD 21044

410-997-1764