

Hi Steve:

I understand your need to automatically oppose anything I may be in favor of but wanted to reply just to try and put us all on the same page. In response to Donna Tope submitting an application to the Housing Board of Appeals you wrote back to her and others on Thursday: (Below)

-----Original Message-----

From: Kunselman, Stephen

Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 12:23 PM

To: Donna K. Tope

Cc: Hieftje, John; janelumm@comcast.net; Taylor, Christopher (Council)

Subject: Re: Application for Boards/Commissiona

“Thank you very much Donna. I read your info - very impressive. You have my support over the Mayor’s nominee from Chelsea.

Thanks for offering to serve.

Steve”

Perhaps you missed it but in response to a previous question from Jane on this issue I responded to all of council on May 6, 11:50 AM.

Hi Jane:

The following excerpt from a message sent by city staff member Kelli Johnson (Rental Housing) explains Mr. Moore’s appointment. I haven’t looked into it any further but I know the board meets when an appeal is filed and they have a need to meet soon and thus need someone from County Health. Apparently there is no one who works in an appropriate position for County Health who also resides in Ann Arbor.

Thanks,

John

“The applicant is an employee of the Washtenaw County Health Department. The previous member, Dick Fleece, is retiring and the Board regulations require that we have a Health Department staff representative. Mr. Leon Moore is Mr. Fleece’s replacement for job duties at the Health Department and Mr. Fleece recommended him for the board position to me.” (Kelli Johnson)

I don’t nominate out of town folks unless they bring something special to a board or there is some other special circumstance. That appears to be the case here according to our staff and the city web site.

The language below is off the city web page, Boards & Commissions, “Description.” Note the last two lines.

How Established: Section 1:201, Chapter 8, Title I - Amended July 21, 1986 - Terms set by Council resolution approved 1/5/87. Purpose: The Board is empowered to (1) hear appeals where it is alleged by the appellant that there is error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by the Building

Official, or any other administrative official, in connection with the enforcement of Chapter 105; (2) grant variances from the strict application of Chapter 105 where such application would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship to the person owning or having the beneficial use of said property. Granting of a variance cannot violate the intent of Chapter 105 nor jeopardize public health and safety. Variance cannot be granted from the requirements of the State Housing Law where applicable; (3) grant time extensions, which shall be given priority over other Board matters; (4) This Board presides over the appeals and variances procedures. Special Qualifications for Appointment: Knowledge of housing and building conditions is important. It is important to have knowledgeable persons such as architects, property owners/landlords, tenants, real-estate persons, private business persons, fire and health representatives. Length of Terms: As of August 6, 1986, 3 year terms ending June 30th of the third year after appointment. No more than 3 terms shall expire in any one year. Meeting Times and Frequency: This is a permanent Board that meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Membership / Committee Composition: 7 members appointed by the Mayor and Council including 1 representative each from the health and Fire Departments. Contact Info: Kelli Johnson, Administrative Support Specialist, 734-794-6267 ex 42667 or kjohnson@a2gov.org

It seems to me like we have been privileged to have Dick Fleece, the Director, serve on the board.

Given that to the best of my knowledge, no other representative from the Health Department has applied and according to the language above, we need to have someone from County Health, I thought we were lucky Mr. Moore is willing to serve. He does live in Chelsea so his confirmation will require 8 votes.

I suppose it is possible that the information sent to me by staff and published on our web page is erroneous but I am not going to spend time digging into it. You however are free to do so. Let me know if you come up with something and I will be happy to appoint a candidate from A2. Otherwise I will be asking for 8 votes to approve Mr. Moore.

By the way, they have recently had a resignation so we have a spot for Donna Tope as well. I will be putting her name forward tonight.

Thanks,

John