

City of Woodinville
17301 133rd Avenue Northeast
Woodinville, Washington 98072

Dear Mr. Buchanan and Councilmembers,

It is with a note of sadness that I hereby tender my resignation from the Woodinville Public Spaces Commission effective immediately. This departure was not planned and comes as much as a surprise to me as it will to you. I have truly enjoyed my time on the Public Spaces Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission before that, so I am sorry to be leaving now. Nonetheless, upon reflection this long Martin Luther King weekend, and in consultation with my wife, it became clear that my hours of service can be better spent elsewhere. I have so appreciated the opportunity to serve the people of Woodinville both as Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission and more recently as a member of the Public Spaces Commission, and I thank you for giving me those unique and meaningful opportunities.

I would like to provide some context for the decision I have made in the hopes that you will find it instructive. There are two primary reasons for my resignation. First, with a young family at home, a career in educational leadership, and several volunteer commitments to various community groups and nonprofit organizations, my time is precious, and it is evident now that it is better spent pursuing endeavors beyond the Public Spaces Commission. I will continue to serve Woodinville and the wider community, but I believe I can be of better service outside of the formal structure of city government.

Second, and more importantly, it was troubling to me that my record as a Public Spaces Commissioner was distorted and diminished by some councilmembers during the recent election. How disingenuous and deceitful it was for city leaders to misrepresent my record, question my commitment, and mistrust my motives as a city volunteer. I have served every community I have lived in for the last thirty years and have been employed continuously for the last 28 years. During that time, I have not once been accused of shirking my volunteer or professional responsibilities, failing to meet my obligations, or exhibiting anything less than a commendable work ethic. Even during the campaign not once did a Councilmember, city staff person, Public Spaces Commissioner, or resident of Woodinville raise a single concern with me about my work on the Public Spaces Commission. Indeed, if there had been a *real* concern, it would only be right for it to have been brought directly to me instead of manipulating it for political gain. Regretfully, I was not afforded even that, the most common of courtesies. This was certainly because there was no real concern at all, but rather only a scurrilous, baseless attack for political gain. How disappointing.

Last week I was approached by fellow commissioners who were hoping to elect me Chair of the Public Spaces Commission at this week's scheduled meeting. While becoming the chair would have certainly been a great honor and a wonderful opportunity to help guide the important work of the Public Spaces Commission, I cannot accept such a role. How could I having been recently and unjustly attacked by current councilmembers? And how could I even continue on the Commission after my character, work ethic, and commitment to service has been so impugned by our city leaders? It is clear that members of the current council do not value my work and volunteer service, nor do they have the decency to discuss any concerns they may have with me directly. And so, I cannot in good conscience continue as a Public Spaces Commissioner in support of the current City Council. It should be clear that when councilmembers attack good city volunteers, those volunteers leave. When city leaders put their own political aspirations above common decency, civil discourse, and customary decorum, they disgrace the office they have been entrusted with and breed distrust and apathy amongst their constituents. When elected officials cling to power and forfeit integrity, the community suffers.

Kind Regards,



Paul Hagen