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Office of the Mayor
Gavin Buckley, Mayor
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2517

AP-55-24

October 31, 2024

To: Alderpersons, City of Annapolis

From: Mayor Gavin Buckley

Re: Arts in Public Places Commission appointment

Pending your approval, I would like to appoint Mr. Jon Arason to the Arts in Public Places Commission. Mr. Arason is a resident of Ward 8 and this appointment fills a vacancy on the commission. Mr. Arason's term will expire on June 31, 2027

Jon Arason
707 Glendon Ave.
Annapolis MD 21403

A copy of his resume is attached.

Thank You.

GB/hrr

Reviewed by: <u>Rules & City Government Committee</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Favorable	<input type="checkbox"/> Unfavorable
<u>Sheila M. Furlay</u> Committee Chair	<u>12/6/24</u> Date

RESUME

Jon Arason
707 Glendon Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21403
410.626.1395
443.852.8840

Summary of Background

Professional city planner with over thirty years of experience in land use planning. Planning experience covers the entire range of planning work including code enforcement and interpretation, development/site plan review, environmental compliance ordinance drafting, subdivision review, land use analysis, permit issuance, long range/comprehensive planning, neighborhood revitalization/conservation, economic development, community development, sector and functional studies, report writing and public presentations.

Education

M.A. Urban and Regional Planning, University of Virginia
B.A. Fine Arts, Art History, The College of William and Mary

Planning Experience

Principal, Arason & Associates, March 2013-present recognized as an expert in planning, land use, and zoning in Anne Arundel County and Annapolis (to the extent Annapolis Boards and Commissions recognize experts). Recognized as an expert in land use, zoning and annexation by the Prince Georges County Circuit Court. Represent citizens and developers on a myriad of applications. Municipal clients included Lewes, DE, Cambridge MD, Smithsburg MD, North Beach, MD and Annapolis.

Director of Planning and Zoning--City of Annapolis, September 1996-January 2014

Responsible for the administration of a municipal planning agency divided into four functional sections--current planning, comprehensive planning, historic preservation and community development. General duties include personnel management, preparation and defense of annual budget, disbursement of funds, goal setting, personnel review and planning department policy. Authorized to make legal determinations regarding interpretation of zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations.

Responsible for review and presentation of applications before the Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, Historic Preservation Commission and City Council. Direct contact with the public and applicants regarding proposals for site plan review, special exceptions, planned developments, variances and architectural review. Review all staff reports for quality, consistency and compliance with city plans, policies and laws. Meet with neighborhood groups about land use and other issues of concern. Provide staff support to special committees/commissions formed to address specific issues as they arise from time-to-time, including sector studies and functional plans and the city's comprehensive plan. Currently overseeing committee developing a wayfaring sign program for Annapolis and performing a redevelopment and urban design plan for City Dock.

Develop and implement comprehensive plan including area studies, transportation, economic development and housing elements; review rezoning and annexation applications.

Have overseen the preparation and adoption of two Comprehensive Plans for Annapolis--first one adopted in 1998, newest Comprehensive Plan adopted 2010.

Represented Annapolis on the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board--the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore region—1987-2013.

served as chairman, 1998-1999, served as vice-chairman July 2012-January 2014.

Served on Governor's land use transition teams, 2006 and 2010.

Promoted from Deputy Director to Director in 1996

Promoted from Chief of Comprehensive Planning to Deputy Director in 1989.

Planner II, City of Loveland, Co--May, 1985-June, 1987

Established aggressive annexation program, responsible for development review including public hearings at City Hall Council, Board of Appeals and Planning Commission. Developed successful incentive package for economic development/corporate recruitment. Reviewed and processed development applications including planned developments, conditional uses and variances. Participated in selection of sculptures for Loveland's sculpture garden and other public spaces.

Planner I and II, Cheyenne-Laramie County Regional Planning Office, September 1981-April 1985

Subdivision and site plan review, wrote regulations for Manufactured Housing parks--became state-wide model, wrote Water Conservation Policy Plan, formed \$6 million improvement district in distressed neighborhood for the provision of public water and sewer, paved streets with curb, gutter and sidewalk. Staffed utility impact committee for review of the EIS for MX Missile basing in Laramie County.

Public Speaking

In addition to speaking scheduled boards and commissions, neighborhood groups, etc. have given numerous presentations upon request including:

American Planning Association national conferences 1998, 1999 and 2000 topics included:

'Vision Planning' (Boston conference), 'Grass Roots Involvement in Comprehensive Planning' (New York City conference), 'Implementing a Comprehensive Plan' (Seattle).

Eastern Shore Conservancy annual meeting, topic: 'How to get the Best Development'

Statewide Planning Directors Roundtable, topic: 'Context-sensitive Design'

USDA Graduate School for international practitioners conducted six hour, for credit seminar on urban planning, land use and zoning in developing countries, infrastructure and establishing property rights--invited back the following year for same seminar.

National League of Cities Symposium, topic: 'Municipal Training in Eastern Europe'

Sister Cities International annual conference, topic: 'Establishing Municipal training Programs and Technical Exchanges with Eastern European Countries'

National Association of Housing Rehabilitation Officials national conference, topic: 'Housing Problems and Opportunities in Eastern Europe'

Awards

Naval Academy Athletic Association, 'Outstanding Contribution to Community'

Top smart growth project in Maryland with others for Acton's Landing (redevelopment of downtown hospital site)—with others

International Liveable Communities Gold Award for Acton's Landing development in Annapolis with others

Excellence in Preservation award from Historic Annapolis Foundation for the BBT Bank project in Eastport—with others

Maryland Chapter APA award for neighborhood conservation overlay zone written for Eastport neighborhood in Annapolis

Maryland Chapter APA award for Outstanding Economic Development project in Maryland for McNasby's Oyster Company purchase, renovation and opening by Waterman's Cooperaive—with others

Other

Technical, artistic and music director Vagabond Puppet People (Arlington Co.), 1976-80. Puppet troupe with a multi-year fall (Sep-Dec) permanent theater, performed at Wolf Trap International Children's Festival, humanities grant to perform 'Puppet Fantasia at many DC elementary schools.

Stage carpenter at Encore dinner theater, 13th and K St. NW for dinner theater production of 'The Sound of Music'—late seventies.

Stage constructor, stage manager and light and sound for production of Harold Pinter's 'The Birthday Party' at DC Space, 7th and E Sts. NW.—late seventies.

Appointed by Governor Schaefer to Chair Maryland-Lodz, Poland Cooperation Committee 1990-1992 in conjunction with the Center for the Reform of Local Democracy at Rutgers University and Warsaw, Poland. Sponsored internships in Maryland State agencies and local governments for Polish municipal officials. Spent five weeks in Poland at various cities consulting with planning department and other municipal officials, lectured at the University of Lodz and School for Local Democracy.

Coached youth basketball for many years at clinic, county and AAU levels in Annapolis, Anne Arundel, and Prince Georges County. Coached Annapolis High School girls' varsity team in fall pre-season.

References

Available upon request