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DEC 11 4 36 PM '75

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

12 Marcella St.
Cambridge, MA
December 9, 1975

City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am writing about the failure of the City Council to vote on the appointments to the Historical Commission at the meeting of December 8.

The Historical Commission, by State law and by City ordinance, contains ten members: seven members and three alternates. All are appointed by the City Manager, subject to the confirmation of the City Council, but several must be selected from the nominees of organizations specified by the legislation. Several of the names submitted to you last night are the nominees of such organizations.

According to the ordinance, which was written to conform to the State legislation, four seats on the Commission are reserved for the nominees of the following organizations:

Cambridge Historical Society
American Institute of Architects
Boston Society of Landscape Architects
Board of Realtors covering Cambridge

Each organization provides two names, one of which must be selected by the Manager; in addition, one of the four members must be a resident of an Historic District. Three members serve at large, as do the three alternates. All members are appointed to three-year terms, and three or four terms expire each year. Six members came up for reappointment last night because no reappointments were made last year.

The individual members now serving and their affiliations are as follows:

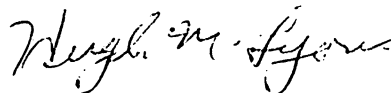
	<u>Term to Expire</u>	<u>Nominee of:</u>	<u>Professional Qualifications</u>
Dwight H. Andrews 7 Brown Street	Sept. 7, 1974	Board of Realtors	
VACANT	Sept. 7, 1974		
Arthur H. Brooks, Jr. 115 Brattle Street	Sept. 7, 1975		Architect
James F. Clapp, Jr. 20 Bellevue Avenue	Sept. 7, 1975		Architect
Robert G. Neiley, <u>Chairman</u> 100 Memorial Drive	Sept. 7, 1975	American Institute of Architects	Architect
Charles W. Eliot, 2nd 25 Reservoir Street	Sept. 7, 1976	Boston Society of Landscape Architects	Landscape Architect
William B. King, Esq., <u>Vice Chairman</u> 25 Hurlbut Street	Sept. 7, 1976		Attorney
<u>Alternates:</u>			
Frances Pierce 85 Chilton Street	Sept. 7, 1976		
Joseph G. Sakey Director, Cambridge Public Library	Sept. 7, 1974		
Hugh M. Lyons 12 Marcella Street	Sept. 7, 1975		

Of those submitted to you Monday night, Neiley and Andrews are the nominees of organizations specified in the legislation, and Arthur Brooks is a resident of an Historic District. James Clapp is a highly skilled architect who is especially knowledgeable about 19th century architecture. Joseph G. Sakey is Director of the Cambridge Public Library, and has energetically served the Commission for two years as an alternate. I served as a full member of the Commission from 1963 until 1972, when at my own request I was re-appointed as an alternate by John Corcoran. Bernard Rudolph is a member of the Jewish War Veterans Post, with a specific interest in the restoration of Fort Washington, and is strongly supported by the Cambridge Veterans Organization.

I feel that the duties and responsibilities of the Commission have to be carefully considered when new members are selected. The Commission is required by law to promote the public welfare "through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places and their settings." The main duties of the Commission for many years have been the administration of four Historic Districts around the Common and along Brattle Street, and the publication of the Architectural History of Cambridge. Recently, the Commission has undertaken to erect historic site markers, publish brochures, and restore Fort Washington, but these are incidental to our main task, which is the preservation of buildings and neighborhoods.

The Historical Commission is not concerned with what most people generally think of as history, but with structures, and the qualifications of our membership should reflect this. Most of those on the Commission have served many years, and all of us have put in much time and effort. I feel that those proposed Monday night should all be appointed.

Yours,



Hugh M. Lyons

HML/jbs

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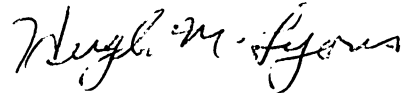
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Yours,



Hugh M. Lyons

HML/jbs

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483-5

Comm. from Hugh Lyons re: appointments to
the Historical Commission

12/15/75

Placed on File

See Agenda #1112/15/75

Apprs. approved-

In City Council,

Dec. 8, 1975