

November 8, 2022

To: Franklin County Commissioners
RE: Application to Franklin County Planning Commission

I would be honored to be considered to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission. As an Architect, I believe that my professional experience and involvement in our community can be of service in supporting the future development and success of our County.

As a resident of Franklin County from 1978 or 1987, depending on how you count my time in college, I've developed an attachment to the area. We live on the farm that my Step-Dad bought for his parents in 1963, in a house built in 1911. I didn't meet my Dad until 1976, but he passed along to me his very definite opinions on stewardship of the land. When Paul and I permanently moved here in 1987 there was virtually no zoning and no building inspections in Franklin County.

When I graduated from KU in 1988, I started working for Earl Devore at Devore & Associates in Ottawa. I worked as an independent contractor from then until about 2005. Mr. Devore was mentor for my Internship and was encouraging when I was completing my NCARB testing for my License/Registration. His involvement in the community has been exemplary and influenced how I view the practice of Architecture. As some of you may know, my experience at Devore & Associates included work as part of the team on many of the buildings in Ottawa, Franklin County and surrounding communities. Since that time, I have worked as Project Architect for midsize firms in Kansas City, Lawrence, and Topeka. Those projects were large and small, a wide range of building types and occupancies, across many states. I've worked on projects to be constructed in a variety of situations on sites with many variations in approaches to zoning and planning. I haven't just watched how planning works (or doesn't work) in these communities; I have actually helped owners understand and negotiate the process to meet the planning requirements.

Qualification: University of Kansas, Bachelor of Architecture 1988
Architect Registered in Kansas since 1994

Professional memberships: American Institute of Architects
International Code Council - non-government associate member

Nonprofit affiliations: Member and Volunteer at Ottawa First United Methodist Church:
United Methodist Committee on Relief, Disaster Assistance Volunteer

Community Service: Franklin County Building Code Board of Appeals
Past Community Service: City of Ottawa Construction Board of Appeals
Franklin County Waste Management Committee (transition to Transfer Station)
Trustee at Ottawa First United Methodist Church

Most Sincerely,
Donna Hines Rayson
4102 Hwy K-68
Ottawa, KS 660067