



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Laurie Walters Stepping Down from Historic District Commission after 17 Years

Laurie Walters is stepping down from the Westminster Historic District Commission where, for over 17 years, she has been advocating historic preservation, broadcasting information about tax credits to prospective historic homeowners, and managing fundraising efforts. Sad to be leaving a task she ardently believes in, Walters sees her departure as a way for other, innovative residents interested in preservation to come into their own by getting involved in the Westminster that they have come to know and love. Besides reviewing applications for historic tax credits and encouraging historic preservation efforts in Westminster, the members of the Historic District Commission, who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council, make recommendations after reviewing proposed construction, alteration, demolition, or removal of any structure in the locally zoned historic district.

The Commission administers the provisions of the Historic District Zone, a voluntary zoning designation that offers protection to historically valuable structures in the City of Westminster. Also, they review applications for tax credits and sponsor various events to raise awareness of the worth that historic resources add to our community. One such event that was so successful last Christmas is the Holiday House Tour. For that event, Laurie was seen cutting milk jugs into luminaries that were placed along the pathways to the historic houses, soliciting donations, and assisting homeowners throughout the night. "From large to small, Laurie has

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contributed of herself totally and fully for the history of Westminster and for its future,” said Mayor Ferguson.

Walters’ goal is not only to increase awareness of historic buildings, but also to create more historic district zones so that valuable landmarks are not lost. She reflected on the value society is placing today on “being green” and said that “being green starts with keeping what you have; updating rather than tearing down buildings.” Besides being a full-time employee of Carroll County Schools as a Media Specialist at East Middle School in the City, Walters’ still plans to be of assistance to the HDC by offering her expertise on a consulting basis rather than sitting on the committee. She may be leaving the committee as a full-time member, but she will be continuing her commitment to historic preservation, she says, by “consulting as needed” City Planner Tim Rogers says of Walters, “Laurie more than carried her weight on the commission since its inception 17 years ago. Her enthusiasm has been an inspiration and a driving force behind our activities and both will be missed.”

The Commission will have two available positions in July that have been vacated by former members. If you are interested in becoming involved in the City of Westminster’s Historic District Commission, the meetings are held at 7 pm at City hall on the first Thursday of each month. Potential commission members need to be residents of City and have an interest or training in a preservation-related field. Anyone applying is entitled to appear and be heard by the Commission before it reaches a decision on any matter. Tim Rogers, City Planner, can be reached from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Tuesday to Friday at 410-848-4628 for more information.

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