

**TO: Rock Island City Council Members**

**SUBJECT: Historic Preservation Commission**

**DATE: August 19, 2015**

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There is a need for membership appointments to the City's Preservation Commission due to the expiration of terms. In March, three members' terms expired and while one of those was eligible for reappointment, she has decided not to reapply due to conflicts with her work.

Recommended appointments for three year terms to expire 2018:

**Paul Fessler** has lived in the community for over fifty years and is currently a Construction Training Program Manager at Blackhawk College. Prior to that, he was Construction Director at Rock Island Economic GROWTH, where he oversaw the renovation of many historic properties. He has previously served on the boards of the Broadway Historic District Association Board, KeyStone Neighborhood Association, Community Caring Conference and Neighborhood Partners. He organized "Great Unveiling" siding removal events in the Broadway and KeyStone neighborhoods and restored a Rock Island Landmark Home, the "Cook-Pearce House" at 727 – 19<sup>th</sup> Street. He currently serves on the board of the Gateway Development Corporation and as an architectural salvage volunteer

**Brian Leech** is an assistant professor of history at Augustana College, where he specializes in modern U.S. history. He holds a PhD and MA in American history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and two BAs from the University of Montana. At Augustana, he teaches a course in public history, which considers historic preservation, museums and historic sites. He recently published research that considered conflicts between historic preservation and environmental remediation in Montana. Besides a hope that his professional training will benefit the Rock Island Preservation Commission, his interest in serving comes primarily from a desire to improve his knowledge of local history and policy for the benefit of Augustana students.

**Elizabeth Anne DeLong** is a residential and commercial interior designer who has lived in the community for 32 years and is generationally rooted in Rock Island. She has been a Junior Achievement volunteer, was a Pasadena Heritage member and was co-chair of the Nest Program through the Junior Board of the Rock Island. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Potter Family Foundation and the NormaLeah Foundation

**Recommendation:** Recommend that the appointments be approved as listed for the terms as indicated.

**Submitted by:** Dennis E. Pauley, Mayor

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**Approved by:** Dennis E. Pauley, Mayor