



## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 8647, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

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<http://www.a2gov.org>

Office of the Mayor  
John Hieftje

Board of Trustees  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

### **Support for Peter M. Pollack, FASLA, for Community Service Award**

To the Board of Trustees;

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Peter Pollack for the ASLA Community Service Award. For 30 years, Peter's name has appeared on the City's rosters of boards, commissions and advisory bodies. He has been active with a variety of citizen planning groups, neighborhood associations and the Chamber of Commerce Board. Continuously and consistently, with a high level of professionalism, commitment, and energy, Peter has contributed his skills as a landscape architect on matters concerning planning, environment and art in public spaces to name a few.

During my tenure as Mayor of Ann Arbor, several activities stand out. One is the City's Allen Creek Greenway Task Force. In reviewing those who volunteered for the task force and understanding the divergent perspective represented, the City recommended that Peter be appointed Chair to lead the group's efforts. Sue McCormick's support letter speaks to those activities in more detail.

As the Task Force completed its work, Peter sought appointment to the City Market Commission. The Commission was attempting to balance groups with differing opinions on a new market master plan and was also engaged in considerations of market procedures. The City eventually disbanded the City Market Commission and reconstituted it as the Public Market Advisory Commission. Peter was among 2 reappointed members and was elected to Chair the new body.

In January of 2007, Pfizer, Inc. announced that it would be closing down its 175 acre research and development site. Pollack Design Associates had worked on Pfizer's site development for nearly 25 years at the time. Peter immediately stepped up to volunteer his knowledge of the site to the City's Strategic Working Action Team, addressing a

proactive response to the impact of this loss on our community. Pfizer Inc. held the City's largest property tax assessment and was the largest private employer in the City except for the University of Michigan.

Peter Pollack is known and respected both for his many contributions to the City of Ann Arbor and his willingness to participate. I support his nomination for the ASLA Community Service Award.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Hieftje". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John Hieftje, Mayor



Community Services Area

## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 8647, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

<http://www.a2gov.org>

Administration (734) 994-2704

Community Development Services (734) 622-9025

Parks & Recreation Services (734) 994-2780

Planning & Development Services (734) 994-2674

Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell ASLA Community Service Award Nominations  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my strong support for the nomination of Peter Pollack for the American Society of Landscape Architects Community Service Award. Mr. Pollack has made many significant contributions to the City of Ann Arbor during my 20-year tenure with the City, most recently through his efforts as a member of the Allen Creek Greenway Task Force and of the Market Commission.

In 2005, Mr. Pollack was appointed chair of the Allen Creek Greenway Task Force by the Mayor and City Council. This task force was engaged in a 15-month process, during which it was charged with evaluating options and making a recommendation to City Council regarding the development of a greenway through the heart of Ann Arbor. This was a controversial and highly charged topic and Mr. Pollack provided steady and unbiased leadership throughout the process.

Mr. Pollack was also appointed by the Mayor and City Council to the Market Commission (Farmers Market) in 2005. The 86-year-old market is one of the largest and longest-running farmers markets in the country and is key to the vibrancy of the downtown. In most recent years, the market has become a very divided group and Mr. Pollack has been instrumental in bringing stability, leadership and focus to the Market Commission's proceedings and activities.

Mr. Pollack's exceptional professional skills and his personal ethics and integrity are a very valuable asset to the community. The City of Ann Arbor is extremely appreciative of and values Mr. Pollack's accomplishments as a member of the Allen Creek Greenway Task Force and Market Commission and highly recommends him for the Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

Jayne S. Miller, Administrator  
Community Services Area

March 14, 2008

The ASLA Executive Committee  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Executive Committee Members,

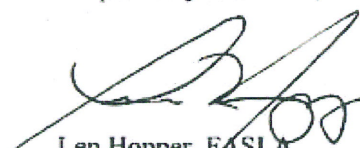
This letter is written to nominate and endorse Peter M. Pollack for The ASLA Community Service Award. Peter's community service at the local, state and national levels based on the principles and values of landscape architecture deserve the recognition of this prestigious award.

Peter's community work in his home town of Ann Arbor is represented by a long list of public service projects that range from downtown wayfinding and city markets, to greenways and natural area preservation, to being a founding member of the Commission on Art in Public Places. He has taken an active role in the strategic planning involving the future of Michigan State Parks. He has given numerous presentations locally, nationally and internationally focusing on landscape architecture, environmentally responsible site design and sustainability. His tireless efforts at promoting all that our profession represents and holds as its core values through his community service efforts has all been accomplished while maintaining a successful private practice, teaching at the university level as well as building an illustrious volunteer resume with ASLA. It would be easy for someone who is so professionally busy to justify not being involved in community service. But Peter's passion for giving of himself, sharing his knowledge, raising awareness and shaping the future of the physical environment through community service is a testament to his commitment to our profession at all possible levels.

Peter never goes about touting all that he does. Most people that meet him will never know all that Peter contributes to this profession, if they do not hear it from those that know him. He very quietly goes about doing so many wonderful things for so many wonderful people and organizations in his understated manner that is his "trademark". It is easy for people like Peter, who are at the core and foundation of so many things that they make happen, to be overlooked or their efforts underestimated. The recognition that this award would bring to Peter's efforts would not only bring attention to a much deserved award winner's efforts over so many years, but would also highlight Peter as a role model for younger professionals reinforcing the principle that community service work is an important and integral part of their professional responsibility and career.

Therefore, it is without hesitation that I nominate and endorse Peter M. Pollack for The ASLA Community Service Award and request that the Executive Committee give this nomination favorable consideration and forward Peter's nomination on to the Board of Trustees for final selection.

Respectfully submitted,



Len Hopper, FASLA  
Senior Associate  
ASLA Past President



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Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell ASLA Community Service Ward Nominations  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Peter Pollack for the ASLA Community Service Award. When I read the stated purpose of the award: "to recognize an individual who has provided sustained, pro bono, service to the community demonstrating sound principles or values ..." of planning, design and public participation as a landscape architect", I can think of no one I have encountered in my nearly 30 years of municipal government experience who exemplifies this description more than Peter.

Ann Arbor has grown to rely on Peter's ability to bring large community discussions regarding options for site use/reuse to successful conclusions, even when viewpoints are varied and polarized. A recent example of Peter's extraordinary efforts and approach was demonstrated in Peter's leadership working with a team of community volunteers and City of Ann Arbor staff to assess and recommend the ultimate fate of three City properties being vacated by City operations in the near future.

Those properties were in a challenged watershed, had significant portions within floodplains and floodways, have dilapidated structures – some with historical significance, and are in prime redevelopment areas near the heart of the downtown. In addition to stewarding a volunteer team with diverse interests and advocacy positions, Peter committed to administering a televised public process and a proactive public engagement process throughout the term of the effort.

Peter stewarded the often-passionate discussion over community and individual values and options with grace. Peter brought respect for perspectives to the table, taking what could have been a very contentious recommendation to agreement on site options. Ultimately Peter's leadership led to design alternatives that embrace a core consensus of values and will be the basis for the City's exploration during an upcoming request for proposal (RFP) process. The options for the sites are both creative and well grounded in the public feedback obtained.

Peter spent countless hours in the effort described above, and while the final report of this effort is still on the presses, Ann Arbor has asked Peter to step up to lead the effort of area Architects on yet another pro bono effort for our community. In recent weeks a major Ann Arbor employer and landowner announced that they are leaving Ann Arbor. On the heels of completing the previous effort, Peter has accepted this new assignment which is to envision redevelopment options for a site that is nearly as large as Ann Arbor's existing Downtown. Peter has come to this new assignment with enthusiasm and creativity and a heartfelt desire to serve the community.

Peter's ability to be creative while taking the community's planning goals, design principles and public process ideals to an exciting end goal is what Ann Arbor can rely on when Peter is called to service. He is truly deserving of the ASLA Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue F. McCormick".

Sue F. McCormick  
Public Services Area Administrator  
City of Ann Arbor



## ***Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission***

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Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
**c/o Carolyn Mitchell ASLA Community Service Award Nominations**  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, we are pleased to express our unqualified support of the nomination of Peter Pollack for the **ASLA Community Service Award**. Peter's career spanning service to the Washtenaw County community makes his nomination most appropriate.

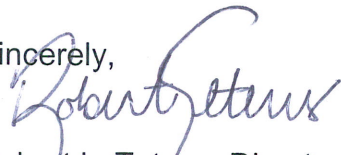
For over 30 years Peter has provided his expertise on a variety of significant community projects undertaken by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. During that time, his design skills and environmental knowledge have been instrumental in the development of our highly acclaimed parks system. His public service efforts in Washtenaw County have been recognized nationally -- including a Merit Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects, for Independence Lake County Park (1982).

Of particular significance to this current nomination though, is Peter's continuing involvement with the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP). The purpose of NAPP is to preserve unique natural areas within Washtenaw County. The program is administered by the Parks & Recreation Commission with the assistance of a Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC).

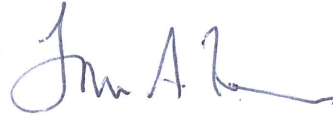
NATAC is an appointed committee of seven citizen volunteers who offer their well respected technical expertise to evaluate prospective properties. Peter has been a member of NATAC since it was established in 2001, and served as NATAC chairperson in 2005 and 2006. As a member of NATAC, Peter provides guidance and leadership for both the Committee members and the Commission. His irrepressible energy and effort have been instrumental in the establishment and success of a land preservation program that has also been recognized nationally.

Again, it is with sincere conviction that we support the nomination of Peter Pollack for the **ASLA Community Service Award**. Through his service, Peter has made a significant contribution to the quality of life we enjoy in Washtenaw County.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Tetens, Director



Tom A. Freeman, Deputy Director