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March 26, 2008

Ms. Carolyn Mitchell
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: LaGasse Medal Nomination

To: ASLA Board of Trustees:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Rodney Swink, FASLA, for the LaGasse Medal in recognition of his thirty year career in the wise management of public landscapes. I have known Rodney for 15 years and find him to be the consummate professional, with both his heart and head in the right place for our environment.

As Director of North Carolina Urban Development, he has provided leadership in the revitalization of a number of towns and cities across the state, with over \$700 million in reinvestment in those communities during his tenure since 1984. His work is the definition of sustainability in the recycling of these urban areas. He has been recognized by his peers with the Robert Stipe Award for revitalization efforts given by Preservation North Carolina. In 2002, he received the Frank B. Turner Award for state employee of the year, the first landscape architect to be so honored.

In his other community service, he was chair of the Raleigh Appearance Commission when it took on the tasks of fighting the visual pollution of billboards and of the creation of a citywide landscape ordinance. He was also a founding member of Scenic North Carolina. For ASLA, he has served as chapter trustee, national vice president and national president, where his reasoned leadership guided the society to new visibility and impact.

I enthusiastically support his nomination and hope that you will consider Rodney Swink , FASLA, for this prestigious and well deserved award.

Sincerely,



Dennis Carmichael, FASLA

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

Re: LaGasse Medal

Dear Trustees:

In recognition of his vision and leadership as the Director of the Office of Urban Development and the head of the North Carolina Main Street Center, it is my pleasure to support the nomination of Rodney Swink, FASLA, for the LaGasse Medal. Rodney has a distinguished career in public service and is responsible for leading downtown revitalization and development efforts throughout all of North Carolina. He has a long history of community involvement and volunteerism in areas that concern the proper management and use of the country's natural and built environment.

Rodney's work with the Main Street program has touched many lives and revitalized many communities while preserving the cultural and historical fabric of the places involved. Rodney Swink's calm and commanding presence provides a successful model for all public landscape architects to follow. Rodney also continues to share his expertise with fellow professionals and students through volunteer work and lectures.

I believe that Rodney Swink, FASLA truly represents the spirit of the LaGasse Medal and is worthy of this honor, and I would encourage all of you to support this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan L. B. Jacobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan L. B. Jacobson, FASLA

Bartells/Jacobson Design
742 Euclid Avenue
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630-790-1693

MARGARET H. KLUTTZ
520 SOUTH FULTON STREET
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA 28144

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

Dear Trustees:

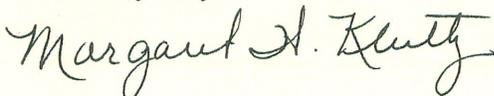
I am honored to nominate Rodney L. Swink, FASLA, for the LaGasse Medal in recognition of his notable contributions to management and conservation of natural resources and public landscapes.

As Director of the North Carolina Office of Urban Development, Rodney has worked tirelessly since 1984 to develop the North Carolina Main Street Center as a resource for small towns and cities across the state that are committed to revitalizing their downtowns. When I was Mayor of Salisbury, serving on several downtown committees and personally involved in downtown revitalization, I got an up-close look at the professional guidance and resources that Rodney and the Main Street Center provided for my city. But I also have had the privilege over the years of watching Rodney help many other cities and towns gain the courage to take back their downtowns and infuse into them an entrepreneurial spirit.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, many North Carolina downtowns were deteriorating, falling victim to the mall phenomena. Businesses that were once considered downtown anchors were relocating to suburban areas. Rodney's dedication to our state's downtown areas was key to reversing the trend toward downtown decline. The Main Street Center helped property owners and elected officials to realize that increasing the number and size of paved parking lots was not the answer to getting people back downtown. Rodney exposed local leaders to the wisdom of paying attention to the streetscapes that enhance the charm and identity of downtowns. Street trees, pocket parks, and seasonal plantings became important. Small businesses began to realize that they could offer a higher level of service and quality than discount stores located in suburban areas. Citizens developed pride in the historic fabric of their main streets and took on sensitive restoration and redevelopment of the architectural gems that had been boarded up or had fallen into disrepair. The initiatives of the Main Street Center also encouraged quality new development that was sensitive to the size, scale, and rhythm of the existing downtown area and greater community.

Without Rodney as their champion, North Carolina's downtowns would not be the growing, thriving places they are today. Salisbury and many other main street communities across our state now are not only home to popular retail and office space but also offer an exciting mix of unique residential, cultural arts, and fine dining opportunities. Rodney's direct contributions have been critical, but he also has been an inspiration to so many North Carolinians who are now themselves tireless champions of the downtown effort. Thanks largely to Rodney Swink's guidance over the years, small towns and cities across North Carolina may once again experience the energy of their downtowns as a pivotal social and cultural public landscape.

Yours very truly,



Margaret H. Kluttz

Susan Hatchell

Landscape Architecture, PLLC

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

Dear Trustees,

Please join with me in supporting Rodney L. Swink, FASLA as the 2008 recipient of the LaGasse Medal. I can't say enough about Rodney's extensive contributions to the public landscapes of North Carolina, and how deserving he is of this Medal. As director of the Office of Urban Development and head of the North Carolina Main Street Center, Rodney has assisted hundreds of small communities through his three decades of dedicated service.

Here in NC, he was the first landscape architect to ever win the Frank B. Turner Award from the NC State Construction Office recognizing a state government employee who has made an outstanding professional contribution to the built environment. He also won NC Preservation's Robert E. Stipe Professional Award for his work saving the historic fabric of so many North Carolina Communities. Rodney won the North Carolina Award for lifetime achievement in landscape architecture in 2003 for his exemplary service to our Chapter and the profession.

Of course, Rodney is also nationally and internationally known as a landscape architect from his volunteer work with the American Society of Landscape Architects, serving as Vice President for Policy and as President of our Society, as well as his service as President to the Partners of the Americas.

In 2006 Rodney was presented with the ASLA President's Medal for unselfish and devoted service to the Society, and his work promoting smart growth and sustainability of small town America. Rodney is known for being so giving of his time and talent with the NC Chapter ASLA, as well as teaching at NC State University, and serving on the Advisory Boards at both of North Carolina A&T and NC State University.

Many of you have been around long enough to know that working with Rodney is a joy! He brings an enormous amount of dignity, wisdom, intelligence and humor to all he does. Each venture he takes on is better off from his involvement. All of us in North Carolina know Rodney as a tireless advocate of the profession, as well as an inspiring mentor, a dedicated teacher, and a loyal friend. He is so deserving of this award. Please cast your vote for Rodney!

Sincerely,



Susan M. Hatchell, FASLA
Vice President Membership
American Society of Landscape Architects