

NILS MUENCH

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May 11, 2006

Mayor Morgan McPherson
525 Angela Street
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Subject: Service on the Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC)

I wish to offer my services to the HARC. Factors in my life that might be relevant in considering my possible selection are as follows:

I have a long association with Key West. I first came here in 1956 as a Navy Submarine Officer. I immediately fell in love with Key West and have visited as often as possible since, including racing in Key West Race week for many years. In 1993, I purchased my house in Old Town and in 2005 moved here permanently—that house is now my homestead.

My house was built in, approximately, 1865. While the original construction is in excellent condition, the 20th century modifications have not fared so well. Therefore, to restore it, I am treating it as I would a wooden yacht suffering from decay, using my best skills and modern materials such as epoxies. My friends want me to write a paper on my restoration techniques, and I will do so in due course.

I realize that HARC is much more than, and quite different from, preservation of old houses. The decisions that HARC reaches are the resolution of issues affecting Key West's future. Therefore, the best reason for choosing me to serve on the commission is that I love Key West and I have enjoyed (see attached) a long career as a manager dealing effectively with people and committees to achieve overall goals.

Incidentally, I have studied the new book by Jared Diamond, "COLLAPSE - How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed". Whether or not I am selected for HARC, I believe all HARC members should read this book as it is highly relevant to the future of Key West.



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Nils Muench Background Summary

Education:

Ph.D. in Physics, Rice University, 1955

LL.B. in Law, South Texas College of Law, 1959. Member of Bar in Texas and admitted to practice before the US Supreme Court

Military:

US NAVY. Commissioned Ensign, USN 1950

USS VALLEY FORGE (CV-45). Served as assistant navigator 1950-51

USS QUEENFISH (SS-393). Served as deck officer and communication officer 1951-53

Industry:

Humble Oil and Refining Company (now Mobil-Exxon) 1953-59. Served as research engineer in production of oil from oil wells

General Motors Corp 1963-93. Department Head. Served last 6 years as Executive Director of Research for the GM Corporation

Government:

Amy Rocket and Guided Missile Agency 1959-61. Chief Scientist and Senior Civilian.

Institute for Defense Analysis 1961-63. Lead scientist in developing defenses against nuclear weapons.

University:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1993-1995. Served as Director of Research for the "Leaders for Manufacturing" program.

Charitable Organizations:

Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 1966-73. Chair, Board of Trustees, 1970-73.

Cranbrook Educational Community Bloomfield Hills, MI. 1973-93. Member, Board of Trustees 1973-93.

Medicine:

Volunteer #13 to test a new vaccine cure for NH Lymphoma cancer 1995-99. This vaccine cure has been successful and soon will become available to reduce significantly the 40,000 deaths each year from this cancer.

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