

Curt Scott
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Re: Open position of Charlotte City Council

To: Honorable Charlotte Mayor, Tim Lewis, and members of Charlotte City Council

Greetings.

I moved my family to this community 15 years ago from Seattle, Washington because of the schools--especially the music program--and this community's support for the arts.

I have been involved in efforts to make Charlotte attractive to the region since I arrived. My first effort was getting a decent coffee shop in town. After a brief speech to the Cool Cities initiative about what was missing here, there were suddenly three. I see myself, not as a leader, but as a planter of seeds.

I am a former Chair of CanDo, (Vice Chair, Past Chair) and board member. I served on three years of Celebrate Charlotte planning and was part of the push that put beer and music in Beach Market. During that time I also met Richard Turbin of Windwalker. His store was stuffed with antiques and compelling junk. I saw a concert venue and comedy club and volunteered countless hours to make it so. I also serve on the board of Friends of Charlotte Performing Arts Center, most recently as Vice President.

I don't care about being in charge or even acknowledged. I care about getting people to gather across political, cultural and religious lines to talk to one another and see that there is no *other*--just us. I prefer to share a vision, find its champion and move on to the next solid idea. For instance, I was there at the creation of the Michigan Nordic Fire Festival and served on the first planning committee to make it happen. The rest is for those truly passionate about winter festivals and Vikings.

I believe the answer to artificial division is putting a band in a public location to draw a crowd and place people next to each other, laughing, smiling and sometimes even dancing who might ordinarily accept the idea that they are enemies.

My latest effort is First Congregational Church on Bostwick Street. They get it, meaning all of the above. Thought I am a professional musician and Catholic who works in Lansing for the Diocese, I am committed to helping First Congregational fulfill its desire to serve everyone in this community by feeding minds, hearts and stomachs. I am its Moderator. It is no coincidence that they suddenly have a stage, grass, trees and soon a 55-foot contemplative labyrinth where once there was broken asphalt and decay.

I started the Charlotte Community Band, found champions for local theater and endured the Willy Nelson debacle on behalf of the Senior Center. I put jazz in a dead building and still want to put a black box theater at Alive -- another venue wherein I was able to join the creation discussion long before the opening.

I am competitive and thus motivated to make Charlotte more compelling than Okemos, increase our tax base, rather than rate, and thus generate greater and greater potential. How we get there is by making people feel good about being in Charlotte. I am apolitical and understand how city government works.

I would be happy to serve on Charlotte City Council.

Peace,

Curt Scott

Education:

BA Ancient History and Classical Studies, University of Michigan

BA American History, Olivet College

BA English, Olivet College

Teaching Certificate, State of Michigan.

Author:

Third Testament: Book One, Random House

Various articles and essays

Currently writing an historical fiction novel about Genesee Country.

Veteran:

United States Air Force