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Organizational affiliations	I am not currently a member of any boards or organizations in Aurora. I am a member of several engineering associations, related to my profession as a structural engineer.
What unique characteristics, qualifications, or experiences would you bring to a board or commission?	Before moving to Aurora in the summer of 2017, my wife and I lived in Omaha, NE, where we owned and restored a circa 1913 Foursquare home. Omaha does not have protected neighborhood historic districts like Aurora, but maintaining the historic integrity (and restoring that which was lost) was important to us. Over the course of 6 years in the house, we restored and renovated the home in keeping with it's original style and construction. This included a complete exterior restoration, including removing inappropriate siding, repairing the original wood siding, and replacing trim and details removed when the replacement siding had been installed. We also rebuilt the original front porch, using historic photos, and ghost and witness marks left where porch elements had been removed. We also rebuilt the garage, constructing it to match the siding, trim, and details of the house. We were also fortunate that our house had every single original window and door remaining, which I restored. I also built new decorative leaded glass panels for several windows which had been replaced with plain glass. Guests to our home were regularly impressed at how attractive, easy to operate, and airtight properly-restored wood sash windows were. Although, I had basic construction experience before we began this restoration, I spent considerable time and effort throughout the process to learn the correct historical materials, methods, and details for the work we were doing. I thoroughly enjoyed the learning process, and performed the vast majority of the work myself.

As we transformed our house, other homeowners in our neighborhood sought my help and advice to restore their homes as well. I learned that many were simply not aware of the correct materials and methods to maintain or restore a historic home, or had been given poor or incorrect recommendations from contractors or salespeople. I thoroughly enjoyed sharing the knowledge I learned throughout our project with others, and seeing the results as their houses were brought back to long-lost beauty. As a member of the Preservation Commission, I hope to share my firsthand knowledge of preservation and restoration of historic homes, and guide owners in making appropriate choices for their work, consistent with the historic district standards. I believe that too many homeowners are simply unaware that the appropriate materials and methods are not as difficult or costly as mainstream contractors or salespeople may lead them to believe. I believe the COA process and input from the Commission members are a crucial step in resolving those issues, and ensuring positive outcomes for the homeowners and neighborhoods. PS, I have attached a file with several photos of our former home in Omaha, to illustrate the type of work I did. I also did extensive interior restoration work, including making new stained millwork to match existing, restoring hardware, mortise locks, heat registers, etc. I realize that experience is not as relevant for the Preservation Commission as exterior work, but I would be happy to share my knowledge in those subjects if requested.

Why do you want to be on a board or commission?

The organized historic districts in Aurora were one of the factors that motivated us to buy a house here in the city, and I believe there is value in maintaining the historic fabric of cities and neighborhoods. It helps maintain a connection to our past, and protects the neighborhood for future generations. I believe owning and caring for a historic property can be a rewarding experience, and the protections provided by the preservation act are a helpful framework for guiding owners. I hope to bring my experience in historic home restoration to help other owners make respectful choices in their maintenance and improvement choices in our historic districts.
