May 31, 2017

Dear Assembly and Mayor,

I resign my assembly seat effective end of the day, May 31st, 2017.

With several individuals interested in serving, the recent letters of interest could still be considered and a new member easily seated in the next 30 days.

I envy the energy many of those candidates expressed for serving on the assembly. I am now completely void of any moxie for the job.

I am sorry for the inconvenience this causes. I am also sorry to disappoint anyone by shirking my responsibilities and quitting before fulfilling my three-year commitment. I expect no empathy (and prefer none.) I am simply being selfish of my time and energy.

But to make it clear, I am not resigning because of the recall effort (an effort I vehemently oppose), or because Debra was recently hired as manager. My biggest regret is that I am quitting before having the opportunity to work with Debra. I believe there was integrity in the hiring process and the personnel committee’s memo from Feb. 17th clearly states how we would evaluate candidates. We followed that process and intent. The assembly did not have a hidden agenda. I disagree with the outcome, but fully support the will of majority of the assembly because I believed in the process.

I believe Brad and Debra have shown impressive integrity, collaboration and leadership at a time when the assembly and mayor have not.

I have unfortunately strayed from focusing on issues and spend too much time now focused on personalities. I have become increasingly disrespectful to my fellow assembly members. I no longer feel effective. I sense no leadership or willingness to help the assembly from the mayor. I find myself becoming bitter toward many in the community. I don’t love this town enough to overlook the contention, the bullying and the vitriol. Many, including the mayor, believe the assembly is the root of this problem and won’t share any responsibility. While I believe the six of us assembly members share as much responsibility as anybody in creating the current climate, we can’t fix it alone.

Most of all, I want to return to just being friends and neighbors with my fellow assembly members, the mayor, staff and community. Maybe if I resign now I will quit being so cynical and snarky. I am not the person I want to be sitting at the dais, so I don’t want to be there anymore. It’s only fair to make way for someone who does.

Peace,

Margaret Friedenauer