

Shaw giving up CDC post

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The Liberty Street Community Development Corporation will lose its staunchest and most public ally at the end of October.

James "Jim" Shaw, the president and chairman of the CDC, announced his resignation Tuesday during a board meeting.

He has led the CDC, a private nonprofit that works to revitalize the Liberty Street Corridor, for the past 8 years. He said that he feels he has done all he can do for Liberty Street.



Garrity

"Due to the circumstances, I am at a crossroads, and I can't go anywhere. It is best for somebody else to take the helm and move forward," said Shaw, whose resignation will be effective Oct. 31.

Those circumstances, Shaw said, include conflicts the CDC board has had with City of Winston-Salem staff and City Council members; however, he would not discuss specific individuals or incidents.

"I don't think that we are able to do on Liberty Street what needs to be done, like bringing in new businesses or assisting businesses on Liberty Street," Shaw said. "We probably don't have support from the city, city officials or elected officials. I don't know. I think that some of them have been supportive, but not all of them."

Recently, Shaw expressed frustration over the city's decision to contract with a private company to run the soon-to-open Liberty Vendors' Market. Shaw said that city leaders had intimidated that the CDC would be given the reins of the venue, which will give vendors space to sell everything from clothes to produce.

"We are at a point where we can't grow without the assistance of the City of Winston-Salem," Shaw said.

City Manager Lee Garrity said the city has stood by the CDC's side. He pointed to major investments that have been made in CDC projects over the years. But during the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the CDC was given just \$8,820 by the city, according to Lisa Saunders, the city's chief financial officer.



Jim Shaw has long been the main face of the CDC.

"I know Mr. Shaw would have liked more funding from the city, but we have been the principal funder for the CDC for more than 10 years," Garrity said. "Our funding is limited just like anybody else. We are taking cuts from the state, and it's not easy for us to increase our funding."

Overall, he said he hates to see Shaw go. "Jim has been a real leader and has worked tirelessly for Liberty Street for many years. I always say that the best partnerships are when you have a strong community leader who pushes hard and holds everybody accountable. Certainly, Jim did that," Garrity said. "We will continue to work with the CDC after he is gone. We have invested millions of dollars in that area and will continue to do so."

Stan Senft, vice president of the board, said he hates Shaw's decision but he understands why he made it.

"It's just time for a change. We have some good, young people on the board ... He has been talking about retirement for several years," Senft said.

The board will next meet on Sept. 16 at the State Employees Credit Union on New Walkertown Road at 12:30 p.m. to discuss the process for replacing Shaw.

Senft said he knows the board will never have another James Shaw.

"He is just one of a kind."

McClain

from page A1

could start looking for employment and not worry about the part that asks if you have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. I know I can confidently say no," McClain said.

McClain, who taught English, maintains the only physical contact he had with one of the students was purely innocent.

"I had just posted exam grades on the back of the classroom door so people could come in, look at their grades and leave," he said. "I gave him a pat on his shoulder as a way of congratulating him on getting an 86 on the exam ... I was trying to encourage this young man, and I have tried to help students, not hurt them."

The allegations against McClain were covered heavily by the local media. He said the shame of being under the microscope forced him to drive as far as Raleigh to do his grocery shopping. Sunday was his first time going back to church at White Oak Grove Baptist in Greensboro, where he lives.

"I didn't know what the community was thinking. I stopped going to church, to the malls and would go to other cities that I felt the media did not reach. It took a lot out of me and brought me down," he said.

His mother, Katie McClain, still remembers the day her son called her to say that he was turning himself in to a Forsyth County magistrate after a warrant was issued.

"He was just devastated. I couldn't believe what

I was hearing," she said.

Katie McClain, who said her son had been enthralled with education since he was a child, said she encouraged her son throughout his ordeal to seek solace in prayer.

"He was so stressed. It was hard watching him in that condition because all I could do was pray for him and reassure him," she said.

McClain would not say if he plans to take legal action against the school system.

"I am waiting to hear from my attorney to see what direction he wants to go with that," he said. "I feel that due to the pain, suffering, embarrassment and loss of income, I am owed some monetary restitution."

One thing he is sure of is that he will not return to the classroom. He resigned from WS/FC Schools on June 30 and is now seeking employment in another field.

"This situation has put a bad taste in my mouth as far as being an educator in the classroom," he said. "I am very fearful because something like this may happen again. I would prefer to do something in a leadership role as school administrator or working in the district office."

He said he wants his accusers to know that they should not play with a person's career.

"You don't treat people's livelihood as a game. I have been brought up to forgive, but I will never forget what they've done to me and the impact that it made on me," McClain said.

Unnamed three in running to head WSSU

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The man or woman who will be the next chancellor of Winston-Salem State University is on track to start the job on Jan. 1.

The WSSU Board of Trustees on Monday voted to forward the names of three candidates to UNC President Tom Ross. He will be charged with selecting one of the candidates to recommend to the UNC

Board of Governors, which must approve Ross' selection.

The WSSU Board of Trustees launched a search committee in May, soon after Chancellor Donald Reaves announced that he would retire on Dec. 31.

A series of community input meetings were held in the spring, allowing the public to tell members of the 20-member search committee about the kind of

chancellor they would like hired. But as the committee has dwindled down the list of prospects and held interviews with many of them over the last few months, the public has been kept at a distance. The names of the finalists have not been released by the university.

Reaves has been chancellor since Aug. 16, 2007. He plans to stay on as a professor at WSSU after his retirement.



Reaves

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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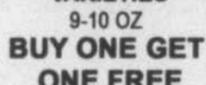
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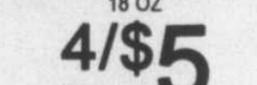
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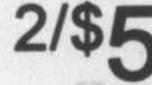
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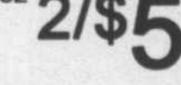
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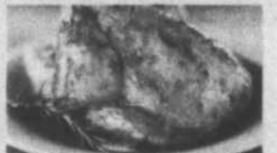
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