

Meet your NEIGHBORS

Rackeline Hoff – Mayor Pro Tem of Birmingham

By: Susan Kehoe, PhD

Everyone knows Rackeline Hoff as “Racky.” You see her at a city commission meeting, taking exercise walks around the city, and teaching mah jongg at The Birmingham Community House and Village Club. Racky Hoff is the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Birmingham.

This is not her first adventure holding the reigns of the city: her fellow commissioners previously elected her to serve as Mayor in 2005 and 2010. She has been a member of the city commission since 2001 and her public service to Birmingham reaches back to 1992. Initially she served as a member of the Parking Advisory Committee and assisted in the formation of the Principal Shopping District. In 1994 she participated on the Board of Review, and in 1997 as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.



Racky Hoff, Mayor Pro Tem, outside the Birmingham Municipal Building

A gifted mediator, she has volunteered through the Oakland Mediation Center and Oakland County district courts since 1992. She has helped hundreds of individuals and companies resolve conflicts peacefully rather than pursuing litigation. For almost 25 years she has played a significant part in the growth and ascendancy of Birmingham into one of the most prominent cities in Oakland County.

Despite this smart lady’s accomplishments, it is the non-public side of Racky that I know and love. When she walks into the room a warm greeting and engaging conversation follows. She is sought out as a friend, a competitive bridge partner and a companion for Detroit Institute of Arts events. As a long-time member of the 20-year old Metro Film Lovers group, movies are a passion. An avid Tigers fan, she frequently takes a carload of friends to the stadium for “ladies night out.” And, she often receives requests for marriages – officiating at them, that is. As part of her mayoral duties she has wed 24 couples.



Racky, with Allison and her husband Josh and their children Camille on left, Stephen and Julia. At Sleeping Bear Dunes near Traverse City.



Racky and Lindsey with tour guide in front of a classic Chevy in Havana, Cuba, during an MSU-sponsored educational trip.



Racky Hoff, Mayor Pro Tem of Birmingham



Racky with fellow commissioners Mark Nikita on left and Stuart Sherman.



Lindsey and Racky during a recent trip to Lake Tahoe.

She graduated from Michigan State with a degree in advertising. This led to positions with J. Walter Thompson and D’Arcy Advertising in New York City, as well as the Detroit Chapter of the American Red Cross where she was public relations director.

Her career has many highlights. Through the years she coordinated several special fundraising events including local portions of the Jerry Lewis telethon for muscular dystrophy and the Channel 56 fundraising auctions. As interim director of marketing and public affairs, she was involved in the public relations and communications for the consolidation of the University of Detroit and Mercy College.

Recently she held the position as External Affairs Manager for AT&T Wireless system in SE Michigan. As the spokesperson she coordinated on-going media, government and community relations that helped AT&T establish its network throughout the state.

Racky travels frequently to California to visit her two daughters and three grandchildren. Her daughter, Lindsey, lives in Lake Tahoe and works in customer service for Squaw Creek Resort. Allison lives in Redondo Beach, and works as an attorney for Toyota Financial Services. Her three grandchildren are at that golden age in childhood—Julia is 9, Stephen is 7 and Camille is 4.

Racky Hoff is an asset to Birmingham, not only because she’s eminently qualified to govern the city but because she gives so much of herself in everything she does. And she does a great many things for our community.



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