



MID OCTOBER 2008

Democracy is a device that insures we shall be governed no better than we deserve.

~George Bernard Shaw

JEROME STOCKS AND SMOKING

Second in a series of editorials on Jerome Stocks' political history

In 2003 the City of Encinitas started considering a ban on smoking on beaches and in public areas. At a City Council meeting, Candice Porter with the San Diego Alliance for a drug Free Youth, presented a "mountain" of scientific evidence from the American Lung Association on the harmful effects of second hand smoke (The Coast News, 3/2/07—"mountain" is their wording).

In 2004, Bond, Dalager, and Stocks voted against a smoking ban with Stocks saying he lacked sufficient scientific evidence of harm (Sign On San Diego 2/15/08). As it became more and more evident that the voters of Encinitas wanted a smoking ban on the beaches, Mayor Stocks' position changed. He then advocated an advisory vote and formed a group to gather signatures to get a measure on the ballot.

The Union Tribune, not exactly a bastion of liberals and a supporter of Stocks reelection, wrote an editorial taking Mayor Stocks to task for going to unnecessary and expensive lengths to do something that could be done by a Council vote (UT, 5-17/07). The UT went on to congratulate the Mayor, if he was sincere in his turn around, and then finished the article with this—"Not that we question the honorable councilman's intentions (we clearly do), but we think council members Maggie Houlihan and Teresa Barth should be the ones to write the proposed ordinance in consultation with City Attorney Glenn Sabine."

Mayor Stocks' efforts to delay the eventual smoking ban were obvious, even to his political backers. Don't you think it curious that presented with a "mountain" of evidence in 2003 that it took years

for Mayor Stocks to come around? I don't—when it became obvious that Mayor Stocks would lose votes if he continued to vote against the smoking ban, he simply changed his position as slowly as possible, dragging his feet all the way. But in the end, it is getting reelected that is important to Mayor Stocks, not principle or personal freedom or anything else.

You may remember the City Council resolution supporting citizens rights on condemnation of private property by government to benefit another private party written by Mayor Stocks (the one that had no real effect and was simply symbolic). Another great opportunity to jump on the bandwagon and support Motherhood and Apple Pie, an opportunity that netted Mayor Stocks some nice press coverage.

What do you think would happen if a private developer (say, Barratt America, for instance) wanted a small, unused portion of someone's property for a private development and wanted the City to condemn the property for his use (for a community benefit, of course)? Do you think Mayor Stocks would stick to his principles?

Encinitas does not need Mayor Stocks—I urge you to vote him out of office in November.

~ Herb Patterson <lindpat@cox.net>

NO MORE!

As this is an important local and national election year, please send the message to our employees on the council, three of whom are hoping to retain their seats, that we love the character of Encinitas, just the way it is.

Please remember how both Jim Bond and Jerome Stocks have consistently acted to the detriment of maintaining our community, and vote in two new council members who will protect and promote our shared vision for the future of a livable Encinitas.

~ the editors

COUNCIL CANDIDATES

As of 20 Oct 2008:

Incumbents

James Bond: no website

Maggie Houlihan: www.voteformaggie.com

Jerome Stocks: no website

Newcomers

Betsy Aceti: dropped out of race

Tony Brandenburg: www.judgebrandenburg4encinitas.com

Rachelle Collier: www.collierforencinitas.com

Doug Long: www.friendsofdouglong.com/

Bob Nanninga: www.nanningaforencinitas.org

Harriet Seldon: no website

Joe Sheffo: www.sheffo4council.com

ENCINITAS MAYOR & COUNCIL

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**DUMP STOCKS
JUNK BONDS**

This relevant phrase was printed on an insert in a recent issue of the Coast News. The insert says it was paid for by the Hometown Alliance. We like it.

The juxtaposition of these two men's names reminds us of the catchy campaign signs the two were using many years ago. But today, in a world, nation, state, and City which has been ravaged by zinger-spewing, self-serving, big-business-supported, faux-conservatives, the two men's names combined as they were in the Hometown Alliance's flyer are both timely and appropriate.

We, the editors of Hoodlink, have been publishing this little newsletter now, on an irregular basis, for four years. We are nobody's thugs or mouthpiece, neither paid nor volunteer. We do have opinions. Our opinions are non-partisan, just like the elected officials of our City (those would be our employees) are supposed to be non-partisan.

Oh, and we do have an agenda.

Our agenda is nothing more, nor nothing less, than to get our local government(s) back on track. To get our civic employees working transparently for the good of the residents, rather than sneaking around behind our backs doing the bidding of the infinite-growth developer community.

As a nation we are facing some extremely tough financial times ahead. There is a lot of trash talk going on back and forth blaming this and that on the Republicans or the Democrats. The reality of our trouble is cross-partisan. The problem at the national level is the same as the problem at the state and local level. Somehow, some way, a group of people have convinced the public that both infinite financial and physical growth are possible and good.

The concept of infinite-growth-is-good became so pervasive that one of the leading economic indicators of the health of our economy has been new housing starts. The infinite-development community likes it. Many in the real estate industry like it. Over-spending government bureaucrats flat out love it. And during good times, the proponents of never ending growth eagerly point to rising property values and proclaim that everyone benefits from no restrictions on growth. The rising tide floats all ships.

But it is not true. In the 21st century, here on earth, in the USA, in California, in Encinitas, continued

physical growth is not sustainable. Since infinite physical growth is impossible, continuing to base our economy on never-ending increases of tax revenue is flat-out stupid. We can no longer grow our economy out of financial hard times the same way it could be done in the 1930s.

We need elected officials who understand it is foolhardy to continue to operate our city for the benefit of the corporate developer. They must understand that it is wrong to push the limits of our building code and general plan to maximize the mass of buildings in order to maximize developer profits, at the expense of the greater community.

We need elected officials who offer something more constructive than snide comments about the will of the residents, especially when consensus is reached at City sponsored public meetings and workshops, on topics affecting the fabric of our community.

We need elected officials who actually have read our general plan. Officials who understand that both the City Council and staff are supposed to act on behalf of the residents, at the will of the residents, and are to be guided by our general plan.

We need elected officials who, when serving on county and regional boards, fulfill their obligations to the people of Encinitas. We need to rid ourselves of those who have subverted what is best for Encinitas to further their political ambitions or act on antiquated and myopic beliefs.

How do we know which incumbents care about the will of the residents? Take a look around the next few weeks at all the campaign signs... City code prohibits campaign signs on public property and rights of way. Signs may only be placed on private property and then only by, or with the permission of, the property owner. Take note of which candidates' signs are pervasive on residential streets. Take note of which candidates' signs are primarily on vacant lots or abandoned construction sites. Take note of signs that are posted with no regard to the City code on public property and in the right of way.

If you see what we do, you will see that Stocks, Bonds, and Doug Long have little support of the residents. Just as telling, their signs are the majority of the ones found on public property and on land someone wants to develop. So, as the Hometown Alliance wrote, **Dump Stock-Junk Bonds**. And we'll add, don't go for Doug Long either.

~ the editors

PROJECT UPDATES

1. Barratt America

What's going on with Barratt's two big jobs in town?

The answer is: not much. The work crews are gone. Their equipment is gone. Both abandoned sites are blights on their neighborhoods.

2. Hall Property

Our City Staff and Council persist in their desire to have Encinitas citizens foot the bill for a regional sports complex. The plan for the park at the Hall Property morphed from a passive park into a major regional sports complex behind closed doors after consensus for a passive park was reached at City-run community sessions. The current plans for the complex plans do not include sufficient parking for normal maximum use and there are other EIR issues to be addressed.

3. Cardiff Specific Plan

So, what is the result of...

- Nine months of weekly community meetings which were organized by our City Council (after the public's rejection of a Draft Specific Plan which was non-reflective of the overwhelming consensus of the previous community meetings)?
- Countless hours of voluntary community involvement by the interested public?
- The item-by-item examination of the flawed Draft Specific Plan for Cardiff at these meetings by a committee of Cardiff Community experts who were hand picked by our City Council?
- These community meetings which were moderated by Peder Norby who was appointed to the paid position by our City Council?
- To the consensus achieved at the meetings?

It would appear that the official recommendations compiled after all this time and work are being fundamentally accepted by the Council but are being characterized, by some members of the building community, as seedy and unfair. Stay on top of this!

4. The Brown Property

Another development attempt at the Brown Nursery property was stopped. The project of choice for the Brown's this time was a large, multiple building, residential care complex on their property at the corner of Santa Fe and Lake.

The applicant for this project was Spring Hill Development, a corporation based in Vancouver, Washington. After hearing nothing but negative comments from a long list of public speakers, they honorably and humbly withdrew the application.