



S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 0

OH DAN...

It would be easy to jump all over our Mayor's latest faux pas. Far too easy. We believe that "appliance-gate", "loan-gate", and "bank-gate" are serving as distractions to what is really going on in City Hall.

Our City Council has five members. One of the members, elected by the five members of the Council, serves as Mayor for a year at a time. Our Mayor is chosen by the majority of the Council with no regard to the votes a Council member received from the voters in a general election. We have a City Manager who is selected and hired by a vote of the five members of the Council.

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, the current Council majority, which includes our Mayor Dan, likes to run roughshod over the concept of open and fair play in our representative democracy. Their behavior is nothing new. Some would say it is so common, that we should grow up and get used to it.

But their behavior is no longer simply boorish or tiresome. The fruit of their behavior is getting toxic. We can, and need, to do something about it.

It is all about the power of counting to three, and the trouble of going too far with running a City using that limited knowledge...

Up until this summer, to get an item on the public agenda for a Council meeting, it took two members of the Council to agree that an item was worth public consideration. Regardless of whether the item was submitted by a member of the Council or a member of the general public, if two members of Council agreed it was a topic worth discussing, the item was placed on the agenda.

For reference, in Solana Beach it only takes one member of the Council or of the public to get an item on their agenda.

Democracies, even representative democracies like ours, are messy by design. But ours is supposed to work in the open and

with a majority's dogma unable to violate the rights of a minority, of even one, to have their voice heard.

What our current representatives in the majority on the Encinitas City Council have done is to exclude all issues from the agenda which were not chosen by the majority. The vote was, wait for it... 3 to 2... with Dan Dalager, Jim Bond, and Jerome Stocks voting to require that three members of the Council must agree to adding an item to the agenda.

Those three have been telling us for years that omnipotent knowledge is divined by counting to three. Now, in addition to telling us that they have no responsibility to listen to an opinion they do not hold, they have voted to totally exclude items from the agenda that they do not want to be officially discussed.

It is time to break up that poisonous triumvirate. Regardless of what a friendly guy he may be, or how long he and his family have been in town, we need to step into a better future by voting Dan off the Council. Now!

~ the editors

GOOD THINGS TO DO...

Create a cultural outing in your neighborhood that combines contemporary art with coastal cuisine. Bull Taco is located inside San Elijo Campground and serves up handcrafted tacos, burritos, salads, and more on a fabulous deck overlooking the waves. This is no campers' secret! Locals and surfers frequent Bull Taco for its unique abalone street tacos, shrimp cocktails, and hot-off-the-grill eats; perfect for after surfing or just a new place to check out on your next stroll down the beach. bulltacocardiff.com

The next artist-in-residence at Lux Art Institute is Australian-born Timothy Horn, in studio now through October 9. His unusual approach to materials includes blown glass,

rock sugar, and rubber-created large-scale structures. Lux redefines the museum experience with rotating art exhibits devoted to the creative process, the living artist, and the native environment. Since 2007, Lux has hosted artists to create and exhibit new works of art inspired by Southern California's environment. While the resident artist lives and works on site, visitors are encouraged to watch and ask questions, making art a more personal experience. luxartinstitute.org

~ Lydia Cobb

Get out there and enjoy our community!

COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Here is a list of the four candidates running for the two seats on the Encinitas City Council.

Candidate	their web site
Teresa Barth	barthforencinitas.com
Dan Dalager	dandalager.com
Kristin Gaspar	kristingasparforcouncil.com
Tony Kranz	tonykranz.com

I-5 EXPANSION TOWN HALL MEETING

This event is a two-way meeting. It is **NOT** sponsored nor supported by either Caltrans or the City of Encinitas.

This town hall meeting is sponsored by CAFE (Citizens Against Freeway Expansion), PLAGUE (Prevent Los Angeles Gridlock Usurping Environment), and the Sierra Club. It is supported by the neighborhood town councils of Olivenhain, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, and Leucadia-101.

Monday September, 13 2010, 7-9 pm.

Encinitas Community Center
1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas, CA

To receive Hoodlink via email, send a message with the subject "subscribe" to stoprezoning@yahoo.com



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UNION TRIBUNE VS. REALITY PT II

As we alluded to last month, it is our view that the San Diego Union Tribune is quite comfortable in ignoring inappropriate actions by Encinitas Council majorities. This seems to be especially true when the bad behavior serves the UT's regional goals. While our Mayor's questionable activities are finally making it into the UT, our take is that the UT really doesn't think it is a big deal.

In and of itself, when isolated from City Council business as usual, we would agree that getting kitchen appliances worth bragging about to your friends, for \$150, is not a huge deal. It was most likely illegal, but a few unethical acts by our Mayor is not the worst abuse of the public's trust in our region.

When taken in context of the overall methods the Council majority employ to steer our City into the future, it is a big deal that the UT generally fails to adequately report the questionable actions of the politicians they support. When some bad behavior of the UT's preferred politicians is reported in the UT, the editors then fail to connect the reality reported in their paper with their editorial views on local and regional politics. Over the years, when supporting Jerome Stocks, Dan Dalager, and other my-way-or-the-highway Council members or City Managers of the past, the UT editors certainly have demonstrated theirs is a selective memory—at best.

A case in point is the story of Russell Bowman, owner of American Landscape and Tree Service and neighbor of Council member Maggie Houlihan. Many of Bowman's neighbors filed complaints with the City regarding the terms of his major use permit. When Bowman appeared before Council with "proof" that he was not in violation of his permit, Council member Houlihan recused herself because she was a neighbor being

affected by the alleged violation. In spite of the neighbors' and City staff's concerns about the validity of Bowman's evidence, Council majority proceeded to dismiss all claims.

About a month later, neighbors offered irrefutable evidence that Bowman had submitted falsified documents. Again, the Council majority refused to act. Not only did the Council refuse to take any action against Bowman, Dan Dalager, our current Mayor, stated, in open session, that he suspected all along that Bowman's documents were false.

Later that fall, Bowman put up big signs on his property, visible from I-5, crudely disparaging Houlihan. Bowman was eventually fined for the signs and for violating building ordinances on his property. But the Council majority's actions of not requiring immediate removal of the abusive sign's and their out-of-hand dismissal of Bowman's major use permit violations was apparently nothing but a good opportunity to publicly harass Houlihan.

In this case the goal of the council majority was to get Houlihan to fully understand their view of running the City. Their way, to paraphrase Council member Jim Bond, is this: all you really need to know how to do is to count to three. They do not want anyone holding, much less voicing, an opposite perspective to theirs. They seek to squelch those who might reveal their disdain for operating in full view of public scrutiny. This was just another example of harassment, masquerading as commonly acceptable political behavior, as the means to the end.

Although the UT covered this story, they neglected to print any part of the story which might have shed some needed, but embarrassing, light on the questionable actions of their friends on the City Council.

More journalism next month...

~with help from friends



MORE COMMENT...

Planning for the future of a region requires forward thinking and vision to engender progress. But while SANDAG has their visions and is working hard to realize their goals of a mega-San Diego, there has not been any official public discussion, much less an agreed-to public plan, for the future of San Diego.

The Caltrans push for their I-5 expansion plans is driven by high-dollar myopic greed. Heavy traffic on San Diego roadways is only one of our problems. And it is not the most pressing. Adding freeway lanes to I-5 will exacerbate the other more fundamentally serious issues and simply result in more traffic.

Caltrans, and SANDAG with it's supporters, offer that what they are doing is planning for the inevitable. We suggest that what they are saying is inevitable, is not—it is simply what they want: more development. What was inevitable was our running out of water after decades of relying on continued physical growth to power our regional and state economy.

Caltrans plans for I-5 in North County calls for more lanes than I-405 has through most of LA and Orange counties—this speaks volumes. That SANDAG's and Caltrans' plans for I-5 in North County includes toll lanes, rather than simply car pool lanes, shows where their bread is buttered.

As a region we have many choices to make. But our choices are being made for us by SANDAG. Our regional quasi-government wields significant control over how taxpayer money is spent throughout the San Diego region. They act under state law as a shadow government. They can, and do, demand how things should be in every corner of San Diego county. SANDAG operatives are not directly elected to make county-wide policy nor are they specifically elected to determine the flow of property-tax-derived funds back to the communities which supplied the revenue. But that is exactly what they do.

Please let Caltrans, and all your local and state representatives, know there are better uses for four billion of our tax dollars than to build more traffic lanes on Interstate 5.