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December 14, 2017

City Council Meeting

Agenda Item: moratorium re: Bayview Center

Good evening Council

1. PUBLIC INPUT

In 2011 and 2012, citizens filled Bayview Sr. Center auditorium to Standing room only TWICE.

WHY? because the City gave generous advance notice of the meetings:

- via various news media,
- signs in the park and postcards sent out...

these are a must because so many who attend the park are not East Hill residents and/or may not read the paper.

- The May 30th 2017, meeting was attended by only 69 citizens, many were couples; there were only a few days notice in the Pensacola News Journal .
- The only reason I'm here tonight is I found out at the Parks and Recreation Board Meeting this morning that this would be on the agenda. Such short, or essentially no notice, for this evening's meeting agenda item perfectly demonstrates the need for advance notice and publicity if public input is desired.

A poll was taken right after the City Council's vote on this project:

- 80% of City residents and
 - 69% of district 4 residents
- said the administration failed to give them sufficient notice to view and comment on the final plans.

2. FULL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

- Funding,
- anticipated revenue and
- operating expenses, including the debt obligation, need to be shared with the public.
- Costly elements of the structure include the need to raise it an additional 8 feet above the previous building height which is expensive.
- The 4,500 sq ft building for boat storage at a minimum cost of \$500,000 to the public is just wrong. 80% of this will be for 40 rowing club members boats - and at extremely low total program cost (about \$1500-2400 annually per the president of the Club).

This was decided out of the public's awareness. There are many parks which could use \$500,000. There can be other ways to accommodate the rowers.

3. THE DESIGN and SITING OF THE BUILDING

- The design selected wasn't the one preferred by the public present on May 30th. They preferred a more traditional Old East Hill style
- The boat storage section blocks 70 linear feet of upland water view from park goers, as does the main building except for those inside the building.
- Citizens are completely unaware of the additional 8-foot additional height requirement for the building and its effect on the overall look of the structure.

4. BAYVIEW IS EVERYONE'S PARK

We need a restart properly notifying the public to obtain their input.

(Not cancel a contract, just get the will of the people regarding this very expensive project)

Let's have 80% of the City Residents HAPPY with proper public notice to give their input on all aspects this time. It would be a travesty to let this opportunity pass.

We don't want people surprised and upset, we want them to be applauding!

It is everyone's park.

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