



Friends of Carefree, this will be a relatively brief edition to impart some recent news and to advise you of an important council meeting Tuesday afternoon @ 5PM. I urge you to attend this meeting if at all possible. A more in-depth edition later this week will summarize the September & October council meetings and will provide you with essential information regarding the General Plan.

Also in this edition you will find materials presented at the two Neighborhood Traffic Calming Workshops [attached] which were held 9/14 and 9/28. Thanks to Mark Milstone, Town Engineer, for providing the slide images he used to introduce the new Neighborhood Traffic Calming policy at both workshops.

Recent News

There is a new vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission, following the resignation of Ralph Ferro last month. Information on the process to fill that opening should be forthcoming from the town shortly. Hopefully, and unlike last time, this exercise will yield representation for 80% of resident voters who turned down the Property Tax.

The October council meeting is noteworthy for two reasons. First, an administrative change to the meeting agenda *may impact* your plans if you were hoping to speak at the meeting. For many years 'Call to the Public' followed immediately after the Consent agenda and prior to Current Events, early in the meeting and before any other council business to be addressed. This month, the 'Call' will be the last item on the agenda (#12 this month) prior to Adjournment. If you wish to speak on or have questions on a topic that is listed on the agenda, please fill out a speaker request form and check the Agenda box, noting the item number you wish to address.

By State Statute, the council is not permitted to comment or answer questions during Call to the Public, but they are permitted to respond to criticism. I'm told that they can and will answer questions during public comment on other specific agenda items prior to voting. You certainly should have the opportunity to question topics such as the Economic Development Plan which is #7 on the agenda. I, for one, sincerely hope you will have plenty of questions regarding this topic and its cumulative costs. Note to the Economic Development Director and other staff: spreading the cost of signs over 2 budget years does not lower the \$1.2M price tag previously discussed; \$600K this year and \$600K next year still is \$1.2M, not counting consulting cost previously incurred, or any additional.

Item #7 is a big deal because it has the potential to allow the Economic Development Director [EDD] to spend freely, not necessarily wisely, on changes to our town which are not necessarily needed or essential and they have no guarantee to generate a single dollar of revenue. Nobody has shown any return on investment for this stuff, including the new circulation component of the overall Economic Development Plan.

The proposed Economic Development Plan comprising agenda item #7 contains other components which are hotly contested and would significantly increase the value of the subject privately owned property without a reliable/believable financial benefit in terms of sales tax for Carefree. Additionally, the resort development, as proposed in the EDP, will have a very considerable impact on water consumption compared to the allotment for a handful of 5-acre residential lots. We are living in the midst of a historic drought, yet some in Carefree town government, and the prior iteration, choose to turn a blind eye to the consequences of a resort. Financial arrangements among 'friends' are fine so long as they are legal and

do not impact the public good or knowingly avoid oversight. This situation is a precise example of why General Plan Amendments, Development Agreements, and Special Planning areas should be tightly restricted and open for complete public scrutiny. Voters have no say in the use of, or special treatment of property at the corner of Tom Darlington and Carefree Highway – that is despicable.

Residents should continue to ask, ‘why is all the focus on a resort, when the most lucrative and promising parcel of revenue generating real estate has gone undeveloped for many years’? Demand honest answers. Excuses are like fleas, there are more every day until eliminated.

There are two brief things before closing *[there are always two things...]*

- 1) The final draft of the General Plan is available as of 10/1 and will be open for review and comment until 12/1. This is **our** General Plan, **the residents**, not the council’s, not the P&Z’s, and certainly not the staff’s. They work for residents, not the other way around. Highly qualified and savvy resident volunteers will be examining that plan in great detail and will communicate with you regarding any deviation from comments and suggestions provided by you during the process. Our guide, Matt Klyszeiko of the Baker Group, has professionally guided the process through some difficult situations with integrity. He probably already has a place in Heaven!
- 2) Our mayor is trying his best to be open **and** he listens to residents. He may not have the complete support he should have from some others who believe they were elected to serve yet seem to serve only their own interests.

Okay, that is just about it for tonight. Since publishing self-serving letters is again popular with the west-side blogger, I assume she has willfully terminated our truce. So be it. I will have to give other residents their say as well. Stay tuned...

P.S. If you subscribed and have ever wanted to reply to 'News from the Town of Carefree' but resisted because you saw 'no-reply' in their email address, feel free to reply anyway. Mayor Crane informed me that staff reviews those replies and directs them to the other appropriate staff for handling.

And there you have it, for now.

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

Notice: In addition to reporting *facts*, this Newsletter will contain the author's perspective on topics or events affecting Carefree residents. That perspective may not be popular with the mayor, council members, staff, town attorney, or Facebook Trolls. The fact is, I don't care what they think.

If we lived in a perfect world, we would need but one newspaper.

God Bless America.

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Carefree, what life should be!

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"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

Attribution not verified; Not JFK and Not Edmund Burke. Possibly philosopher John Stuart Mill, 1867.

I attribute it to Common Sense!