

Opinion

Letters

Dear Editor

Why should Marina residents subsidize the Peninsula's water bills? I don't know. But I am happy Jane Parker is advocating for that on our behalf. I only wish I could vote for her but alas I can't as I live in PG and she represents Marina.

*Tim Buhl
Pacific Grove*

Question ...?

If every other word that seems to be uttered by the Marina City Council Members, that staff is so busy, that the city is so understaffed - Why is it then, that even for being able to just add flags, a permit, among other requirements, would be required. Doesn't that add to the workload ...? And, in the end, what is the benefit of that? Or, actually, is there a real benefit? Come on ..., let's think that through a little ... -

Do you think for a moment that constant regulations create incentive for businesses? We are so overworked ourselves, so understaffed (oh, yes, that word again), on account of the economy and putting up with the City's restrictions, which together do not help create income for either the City or the Merchants. Aren't we all in need of money ???

Unless you give us certain freedoms ..., City Center is doomed ..., and serious problems will start ensuing. If they haven't started already. Just look at the current vacancies ... - Additionally, when you do not have traffic ... there are more opportunities for crime to increase.

Loosening up with restrictions does not amount to anything - it is just back

to status quo. IT IS TIME TO LOOSEN UP !!!!

Just say what's allowed - with a much less restrictive environment for signs, etc ..., as a starter - Period !!! - We'll go from there. We'll adjust as we go along ... !

Do not succumb to bureaucracy Take charge of this issue. Don't play politics ... - do the things that are necessary to be done. You know that this is a very important issue, not only for the businesses, but for the City as a whole. It takes guts ... - I know. Inaction, which seems the preferred mode, affects lives Additionally, don't hesitate that on account of one or two citizens might complain. After all, in reality, though not diminishing their contribution in anyway, as every dollar counts, how much, in the end, do they spend in town. Did you know that 60% of my business is done with outsiders - tourists ...- (I would not be surprised that most other Marina restaurants also survive on account of outsiders). And that happens on account that we do things that attract their attention, with flags, signs, different promotions, etc ... , therefore, contributing to the community. My understanding also is that even Wal-Mart gets most of its clientele from the outside ... - So, the numbers and where they come from tell a story - if not the whole story.

Additionally, what happens to the City Center when the Dunes Center will have the banks and the supermarkets, etc ... ? Reservation Road, specially at City Center, now is a tertiary street. Traffic is now hardly existent at night. Just look at a map of the City of Marina to see how now traffic flows, and realizing why we are now avoided. There is no real reason to be in this section. May be mostly during the day for banking, market and drugstore. But, what then, when ...???

Remember that Staff will always claim "... at the direction of the City Council ... ", or, " ... if the Council wishes, it can change it. " Or words to that effect. So, other questions arise - who really runs the City? Who sets policy for the Staff? Who is ultimately responsible?

Think of yourselves when traveling ... - how do you find where to go, specially to dine ... - I'd be willing to bet that most of you end up at those corporate eating places, since, in most situations, nothing else attracts your attention.

If I had the time I'd personally be in front of the Marina City Council and expressing my views. May be you are glad that I don't ...

A challenge ... I'd treat any of you to a dinner at Dishes, if, at any time any of the Council Members cares to spend a some time to interact with some of our guests and ask of them questions. Such as ... how they end up in Marina, what prompted them to eat at Dishes, etc ... - It is amazing what you will learn. It would be an eye opener. Who will take me up on this offer?

Do I sound frustrated. Absolutely.

Look how long it took for those Marina directional signs to go up since I started pushing for it. It took 13 months for the first one to go up after approval. And, it took my constant prodding with 3 Mayors - just ask them, to finally get to the point where we have just a basic amount up. Yes, the signs are paying off. However, we still need at least another 4 to 6 in strategic locations. In addition, how long did it take for "Enterprise" rent a car - to get their sign approval? (how much more income could have been earned if those signs were allowed to have gone up much earlier. " ... Who cares - just following regulations, you know ... - that seems to me the intel-

lectual reply! That's more important.)

Further, it seems to me that by the recent clamping down by City on the displays in front of the stores - Café Mia example, and fining them, then it is placing its resources in the wrong places. The simple question before the action should have been ... what was the harm that the display was causing? The question now actually should be ... - what is the positive influence that the display is having? A new approach should be looked at. Changing the mentality as to how we see things. Rather than see things as illegal we should look as adding benefits. That's what creates character. That's what incentivizes businesses to be more creative. That's what the City should encourage. Just like the title of the booklet "A Whole New Mind", by Daniel Pink, which I recommend it greatly.

I have a history of doing things that have portrayed the City in better light, placing it in the news in a positive way, especially with the "International Flavors of Marina - Food, Wine & Beer" - which was my concept and creation; the directional signs; positive newspapers restaurant reviews; positive blog reviews; among other things. So, I speak from a position of a legitimate contributor for the City's well being.

What is the catalyst that brings people to City Center???? We (merchants) do!! - And, we can do more, if..., you allow us (actually, it should be ... if you allow yourselves ...!).

Time to shine !!!

Thank you for reading it.

*Best wishes
André
Dishes- Bistro & Grill*

Marina Point of View

By
Gary Wilmot



Hello, Marina! I would like to take a few moments of your time to clarify something that keeps coming up. Recently, people have asked me to run for city council and I always respond with "That will never happen again". That is almost always followed by the question "Why not?" The answer to that question is somewhat complicated, but essentially boils down to the following: I am no longer willing to give up my freedom to act as an individual, therefore I will not run. As a member of the city council you give up this right. The Mayor and Councilmembers are part of the leadership TEAM for the city. As team members they need to act as a team to move Marina in the direction that the majority of the team votes to move. That means, if the majority of the team votes to approve the Marina Heights Project, then a councilmember should not undermine the majorities decision by filing a lawsuit. This principle also applies to the current tax issue which is splitting the council. It is important for the council, once they make a decision, to the act as a team to implement that decision, even if all don't agree with it.

Being Mayor or Councilmember is

a 24/7 job. You are always on the job and as a member of the leadership team, you are not free to speak your mind, nor should you undermine the position of the council majority. Therefore, it comes as a shock to hear and read that Mayor Delgado and Councilman O'Connell will walk door to door to defeat the tax cut, if they do not get what they want in terms of program cuts.

Mayor Delgado has had almost 2 years to implement cuts but has not had the wherewithal to articulate the cuts in such a manner that the majority of the council would or even could vote for. He just keeps saying he wants to spread the pain. Councilman O'Connell when asked by Councilmember Gray, what it would take for him to support a sales tax increase, could not even come up with a coherent reply which could be discussed. So he must also be looking to spread the pain.

The idea of having leaders on the city council that feel that it's their job to make everyone share the pain of this recession is absurd, particularly if you consider the fact that Mayor Delgado and Councilmember O'Connell are the

only people on the council who have not been impacted by this recession. Mayor Delgado works for the Federal Government, when was the last time they laid anyone off or implemented furloughs?

So, why are they so set on sharing pain they are not suffering with the people that are already suffering pain of the economic downturn? And who do they want to make suffer? Is it the Police department, which is already understaffed? Is it the Fire department which is also understaffed? Maybe its Public Works. Could it be that they want to cut the Recreation and Cultural Services department?

I think they want to make us, the citizens of Marina suffer. They want our children, teens and elderly to not have the services they used to get. Yes, cut backs have already begun and programs that had city support are no longer getting the support they had in the past. Does Mayor Delgado want to share more of the emotional pain that we feel when there is a drive by shooting, murder, hooliganism in your neighborhood, because our police are understaffed? Do they want us to experience what it feels like to have someone die in your arms, because the fire department did not have enough resources to handle 2 medical emergencies at once? Please tell us Mayor Delgado and Councilman O'Connell, who do you want to spread the pain to?

This whole situation does not

make sense. The City Charter, which was voted in by the Citizens of Marina, on June 2, 1998 and amended by voters November 7, 2000, says the following:

"Section 2.02 The Council shall maintain a revenue structure adequate to meet the City financial requirements for execution of the balanced programs and the basic level of city services determined by the City Council necessary to carry out the duties, obligations and mandates of this Charter, which revenue structure shall be balanced equitably between taxes, fees, utility and enterprise charges and assessments, grants and other sources of income and revenue."

I read the entire City Charter, nowhere did I find anything that stated it was the council's job to share or spread the pain. It is the council's job to implement Section 2.02 of our charter and any member of the council that works to violate our charter, which is the will of the people, should be recalled.

Thank You for reading the whole article. Gary

Exercise Your First
Amendment Rights.
Write
Email editor@marina-gazette.com