

Marina Point of View

By Gary Wilmot



Hello Marina, well as they say, may you live in an exciting time. Personally I love when things go crazy, because I enjoy the challenge of fixing things when they go bad, and bad they will go, if the council continues to reward deceit and punish competence and honesty.

Sometimes I wonder if the mayor even listens to what he is saying. In a meeting where inappropriate contact between the developers and the council was an issue the mayor, Bruce Delgado stated that he met with Peninsula Housing Partners, (The group whose leader is under investigation by the FBI and the Monterey County District Attorney for bribing

an elected official) before the the RFP was issued to advised them on their submission for the Cypress Knolls Project. He felt it was not a violation because the Request For Proposals (RFP) had not been signed or issued. He is correct it is not a violation if you go by the letter of the law, but is it a violation if you go by the spirit of the law. It is also a conflict of interest, since the mayor will vote on awarding the project, between the one he advised on and help develop, and the other project which he had no involvement in. In other words, his friends asked him to provide input on their project submission and now he has to choose between his friends and their competitors. Yes, I

see this vote will be based on merit, as my daughter would say, NOT.

But it gets worse, the Mayor also justified council member David Browns meeting with Peninsula Housing Partners as not violating the no contact rule, simply because the vote had not been canvased. Council member Brown had won the election, the brown act applied to him on day after the election, yet, Mayor Bruce Delgado tried to argue that Peninsula Housing Partners did not violate the no contact provision, because he was not officially a council member. I guess contacting the winner of an election is not a violation of the No Contact Clause according

to Mayor Delgado's ethical standards, but I am think most of us in Marina have a higher ethical standard then Mayor Delgado.

I bet when everyone voted for a more open and accessible government, they did not expect it to be more open and accessible to liars and cheats. What happened to the truth? The development team cheated and Mayor Delgado, Council Members Brown and O'Connell rewarded them for it.

I guess this is the new Marina leadership, where friends of the mayor get to bribe a council member, be under investigation by the FBI and the DA and then still be considered trustworthy. Unfortunately the above information is only the tip of the iceberg.

They use the word transparent but reward deceit, they use open government, but hide everything, even to the point where they are no longer allowing the professional staff to do their jobs. If you have been paying attention, you would have notice that more and

more of the time the mayor and the council member Brown and O'Connell are writing the staff reports themselves or having outside hand picked consultants write the staff reports. They tell everyone that it's to save money, but the real reason is, they don't want to have an unbiased opinion, they want someone that will give them what they want and not the truth.

Have you seen the closed session agenda, it keeps growing and nothing seems to come off the close session agenda. Also have you noticed how often the Mayor talks about a project that never becomes reality. It seem like every few months the Mayor has another eco friendly project that does not become reality. It's amazing, so many failures in such a short time. I understand wanting to talking about exciting new things before an election, but as the mayor of the city it is also important to deliver the project or stop picking lemons, because there is a lot of staff time, which is money going to waste turning lemons into lemonade.

Come on lets get real, start listening to your staff that have Master Degrees in Municipal Government, or at least start asking them for advise. They know what they are doing.

After all, it was their actions that got us the Dunes Shopping Center, Ramada Inn, Holiday Express, Patton Commons, Seaside Cottages, Crescent Avenue Extension and the house, Wal-Mart, The Wellness Center, The Movie Theater, and many more things to come. It was the staff's knowledge and a council team that was not threatened by their intelligence.

Come on, I know you can do it Mister Mayor, just give it a try. Meet with the City Manager every week, let him know what you are thinking, where you want to go, you may be surprised, he may even help you get there. Because right now, it looks like we are just spinning wheels and not moving forward.

Gary

DRAWING FROM THE NATURAL WORLD

CSUMB instructor contributes to book from Harvard University Press

Once in a great while, as the New York Times noted recently, a naturalist writes a book that changes the way people look at the living world. John James Audubon's "Birds of America," published in 1838, was one. Roger Tory Peterson's 1934 "Field Guide to the Birds" was another.

Keller sketches at Point Lobos. Add another title to that list.

"Field Notes on Science and Nature," to be published next month by Harvard University Press, allows readers to peer over the shoulders and into the note-

books of a dozen researchers, to study firsthand their observational methods, materials and fleeting impressions.

"Field Notes" offers specific examples that professional naturalists can emulate to fine-tune their own field methods, along with practical advice that amateur naturalists and students can use to document their adventures.

Some of that practical advice comes from Jenny Keller, an instructor in the Science Illustration program at CSU Monterey Bay, who contributed a chapter and the cover illustration.

Her chapter is titled "Why Sketch?" In it, she encourages scientists to give it a try, and offers some basic drawing instruction.

Keller sketches a fish from life "I'm trying to make the



case that it's doable and here's how," she said. "It's not that hard to add some simple visuals to your field observations, and it will deepen the amount of information your field notes can capture. The drawings will be able to say things that are hard to capture in words.

"Careful observation makes you a better scientist, and

drawing is a great way to observe," Keller said.

The project started several years ago when the book's editor, Michael Canfield, contacted Keller out of the blue. "I don't know how he found me, but we talked animatedly for about 90 minutes, and then we realized that we wanted to

work together on the project," she said.

"I'm honored to be in the company of these naturalists. Some of my biggest he-

ros are contributors to this book," she said.

Keller came to CSUMB when the science illustration program moved to the university from its original home at UC Santa Cruz Extension in the fall of 2009.

She teaches field sketching, applied techniques in natural science illustration, zoological illustration and history of scientific illustration.

She combined her lifelong interests in art and science when she began keeping illustrated field journals in 1981. Since that time, sketch-

ing natural subjects from life has continued to inspire and inform her other illustration projects, which have centered on mammals, birds, and botanical subject matter.

Her work has appeared in numerous books, magazine and other publications. In 1992, "Dolphin Days," a book she illustrated, won the John Burroughs Award for best book of the year in natural history.


More information on the science illustration program at CSUMB is available at <http://scienceillustration.org>

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(Marina Residents receive a 10% discount)