



rRemarks Data for November 7, 2023 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section: Comments of a General Nature

Agenda Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Rose

Comment: Pardon me for asking, but ...

On 28 Oct I tried to retrieve the minutes of the 17 Oct meeting. I discovered two things:

i) Meeting minutes for a meeting date are now accessed via a link next to the agenda link on the webpage for that date's meeting.(I believe this is different than the way minutes were handled prior to the new website.)

ii) Minutes for the 17 Oct meeting were not available on 28 Oct. I don't know if they were available on 24 Oct.

If the minutes were not posted in time for VC's approval, what is the meaning of VC's vote to approve minutes of the 17 Oct meeting at its 24 Oct meeting?

Or is VC approval of the minutes simply a formality without substance and meaning?

Have minutes ever NOT been approved? Does anyone on VC ever read the minutes before approving them?

What happens if they are approved only after a modification?

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Comment: Re CC's 24 Oct report

Are congrats in order to the CC for confining his report at the 24 Oct mtg to a subject he can claim actual knowledge of? As opposed to his questionable decision to comment on events in the Middle East, remarks politically easy to make in the US, even if grounded (as they likely were in CC's case) in little actual knowledge.

CC's report on 24 Oct applauded CSD 99's Transition 99 Center.

As a former member of 99's board, Comm D voiced pride in 99's support of the Center and its programs.

Given VC's decision to put the matter of video gambling machines in DG to a referendum as part of the Nov 2024 election, on the grounds the results will be more representative of village sentiment than if the measure had been part of a municipal election, I can't help but wonder if Comm D is equally proud of 99's decision to put 99's last bond measure before voters in a municipal election. Looks to me like 99's idea was to take advantage of the expected low turnout in which supporters of the measure could more easily prevail.

What does the difference in handling of these two matters say about democracy and political leadership in DG?

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Comment: Is it time to start worrying yet? ver 1

This is a followup to my one of my e-remarks to the 24 Oct meeting: Does a bully have a right to bully?

For those wanting an alternative perspective on the conflict in the Middle East in contrast to the one fed Americans by mainstream media and most Dem and Repub pols.

some links:

Link to Ben Joravsky podcast conversation with David Faris that aired on 21 Oct.

<https://chicagoreader.com/columns-opinion/podcasts/ben-joravsky-show-podcast-episodes/>

Scroll down through the list of podcasts to find the 21 Oct date.

Faris is Middle East studies scholar, a poli sci prof, and a political columnist.

Among other topics, he talks about Netanyahu's role in perpetuating the conflict.

Q he raises as troubling: If neither a two-state solution nor a shared single state solution seems viable, then what?

He indicates both Trump and Biden facilitated the current conflict thanks to their support of Netanyahu and ultra right Jews.

Links to Judge J Napolitano (he's a libertarian now doing podcasts) interviews of Col. Douglas Macgregor.

Macg lays out risks of wider war if Israel does not stop killing Palestinian civilians in its lust for revenge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTjEy1Fic9s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iq1SjC7u8l0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUws5BIOS2Q>

Full set of Napolitano podcasts here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@judgingfreedom/streams>

Link to Veterans for Peace comment on Middle East conflict

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2023/10/25/statement-on-gaza/>

Link to pix of effects of bombing Gaza

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12674523/satellite-images-Israeli-airstrikes-laid-waste-Gaza-bombardments.html>

[Obvious question: Who will pay the costs of reconstruction? Or will there be NO reconstruction because the Palestinians will be pushed out to live somewhere else?]

Link to discussion of document leak re expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza:

<https://consortiumnews.com/2023/10/30/new-document-leak-on-plan-to-expel-gaza-population/>

Links to discussion of evidence that Israel is responsible for deaths Israel attributed to Hamas because the deaths resulted from Israel's counterattack on Hamas.

<https://new.thecradle.co/articles/what-really-happened-on-7th-october>

<https://consortiumnews.com/2023/11/06/what-we-are-not-hearing-about-oct-7/>

Link to discussion of US support for Israel, support which "conveniently" overlaps US desire to dominate Middle East oil production

<https://consortiumnews.com/2023/11/06/us-thinks-its-powerless-to-stop-gaza-genocide/>

Note particularly Senator Joe Biden's comment in the video.

Will Biden be tried for war crimes? Does the argument mean it's also time for members of VC to lawyer up?

<https://consortiumnews.com/2023/10/27/biden-risks-complicity-in-genocide-warns-brief/>

So how does this end well?

What constitutes a satisfactory solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict?

Analysts worry that things are about to get WAAAYYY out of control.

Because the key players have no satisfactory political solutions.

Or do each faith's respective true believers imagine their respective gods will fight it out to decide who gets the land?

Politics in both Israel and the US are very divisive at present. Both nations are led by elderly individuals whose electoral futures, and personal post-government-office fates, are on the line.

The Biden Admin's support for Israel — the Prez hugging the Prime Minister — is a "George Floyd moment" in world history.

To much of the world the situation looks like the Israeli (and Jewish Americans) tail wagging the US dog, US claims of leading the world based on its purportedly higher moral standards of conduct now in tatters.

The claims aren't helped by the obvious contrast in US support for Ukraine versus US lack of support for the Palestinians. Why the difference? A: Because US geopolitical interests clash with the nation's professed effort to promote democracy in the two cases, and because of the power of the tail wagging cited above.

Unfortunately for Biden, the failure of the US proxy war in Ukraine is about to become obvious. Coming after the clumsy withdrawal from Afghanistan, that outcome quite possibly (probably?) irreversibly dooms Biden's electability in 2024. Will he take the party down with him? Or will he withdraw?

If the latter, whom then do Dems nominate? Sanders? Harris? E Warren? Newsom? Pritzker?

Do the Repubs offer a superior alternative?

Cue right-wing bitch boys: "Bomb, bomb, bomb. Bomb, bomb, Iran".

Yeah, that'll work.

Do Americans really want the aspiring fascist with the astonishing comb-over, artificial hair and skin color, and excessively long neckties ("Honey, does this tie make me look thinner?") currently dominating the Repub Party politics living in the White House a second time? What programs/ideas is he offering to tamp down emotions?

Turn Gaza, the West Bank, and E Jerusalem into ""Trump Palestine Hotel and Resort""?

What programs/ideas is the Repub party offering these days? Mike Johnson and white Christian nationalism?

A gerrymandered Repub victory in 2024 thanks to the Electoral College -- with the Repub prez candidate losing the popular vote by an even greater margin than in 2020 -- will surely end the divisiveness in the country and permit everyone to start addressing the nation's many and worsening problems.

Third party candidate? Ordinarily doomed by definition, but not in 2024?

RFKj appeals to many looking for someone able to challenge the political establishment. With Dems pushing him out of the party, his appeal may actually be enhanced.

Does his Biden-like post-07 Oct support for Israel help or hurt him? RFKj's biggest problem: getting on the ballot given our 'rigged' electoral system discouraging/thwarting third party challenges.

Cornel West?

A Green Party candidate?

A Libertarian?

How DOES this end well?

Does CC still stand with Israel? Who knows?

But clearly VC presumes none of these larger concerns will affect life in DG. Which means VC can continue to devote its attention to important matters such as the Fairview Av upgrade.

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Comment: Is it time to start worrying yet? ver 2

Uh oh.

Check out this video discussing the fact that at least some in the financial sector, namely financially actuaries, are starting to worry about the consequences of our environmentally unsustainable way of living:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-FJvzgrM00>

For a real life example of what it means to live environmentally sustainably, check out Australian Ted Trainer's discussion of his Pigface Point:

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2023-11-06/how-we-could-live-well-on-far-fewer-resources-the-simpler-way-video/>

The link to his video is at the beginning of the article.

Note: The video is a challenge to watch because its production quality reflects Trainer's DIY approach to living.

Notably however, at about the 16th minute he brings out scale models showing the contrast in the landscape for a typical 'modern' suburb's unsustainable way of living and his permaculture-based conception of what the area would look like once it became environmentally sustainable (ENVS).

The obvious question facing those living in the world's rich nations: How do we get from our currently unsustainable way of living to an environmentally sustainable way of living?

The video indicates Trainer is clearly a multi-skilled craftsman. As such, he seems to believe each of us has that capacity. Do we?

My guess: Trainer's low-tech example likely seems too extreme.

But if you think that, please show me where his argument falls short. And in the process, please also explain how and why some less extreme notion you have of a sustainable way of living — one that is closer to the (high on the hog) way you live now than to the way Trainer lives — is both achievable AND sustainable.

Clearly, nothing in the GRC protocol comes remotely close to providing an answer/guidance to such questions. So I don't expect VC and staff to be of much help in moving DG toward an ENVS way of living.

Which begs another obvious question: Since VC and VM have no clue about ENVS, and since we have yet to see any group of citizens within DG show sufficient concern and knowledge about the nature of the issue, what good is to be achieved by VC hiring a new coordinator and moving to resurrect the dormant ECC?

Unless and until DG faces ENVS as a rate of resource consumption issue, such efforts will be little more than self-deluding and/or conscience laundering.

I have yet to hear anyone disprove this assertion.

Perhaps it's time we too should start worrying.

Or preferably, we should start figuring out how to change our way of living and that of the assorted social structures that enfold and oppress the vast majority of us.

What will it take for an ENVS way of living to be part of the DG brand?

Example: To what extent is ENVS a factor in VC's contemplation of the Fairview Av upgrade? How is its current discussion not 20 to 30 years too late in the making, and thus far completely oblivious to the dramatic changes likely coming in the years/decades ahead?

For those wanting a more conventionally academic, often macro-oriented approach to the subject of simplifying, Nate Hagens does an excellent podcast The Great Simplification.

thegreatsimplification.com

Most of his conversations have a natural science orientation to them, an excellent example of which is his conversation with Sir David King

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2023-10-25/sir-david-king-global-heating-the-science-and-the-response/>

or here

<https://www.thegreatsimplification.com/episode/95-sir-david-king>

My concern with Hagen's podcasts is that, not surprisingly, he and his guests fail to identify capitalism as an explicit issue/obstacle central to our global predicament.

As I keep asking VC: Is capitalism compatible with ENVs? [Cue CC's meaningless reply: "Capitalism can always do better."]

In other words, while Hagens is aware of the need for dramatic social and societal change, by my assessment, he has yet to talk to social scientists prepared to discuss the matter as the explicit task of moving beyond capitalism, that is, beyond a political economy dominated by capitalists and capitalist thinking.

Notable example of current obstacles:

King mentions (around minute 58 in the podcast) the US shut down an effort by G8 nations to reduce CO2 emissions.

Why would the US do that? A: Because "the American way of life is not negotiable."

That is, much like the ultra-right zealots of Israel, it appears the ultra-right zealots of capitalism in the US refuse to give up their power without a fight. And thus far, they encounter little in the way of resistance.

What will it take for ENVs to become a goal central to US political economic life?