



rRemarks Data for February 13, 2024 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section: Comments of a General Nature

Agenda Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Rose

Comment: Comment on VC's initial comp plan workshop

What was the main purpose of the workshop the consultant had with VC on 06 Feb?

I would argue it was to give the consultant a condensed opportunity to learn what notions members of VC have campaigned on to get elected and/or expect to campaign on in future to get re-elected.

Nothing more, nothing less.

Thus, I find it particularly disappointing to have to listen to Comm T's ongoing blather about notions that — should one examine them closely — are largely meaningless. They are the lies/myths members of VC regularly tell themselves and residents about DG.

“Balance tradition and progress?” “Innovative?” “Involved citizens?”

By what measures?

How did the Longfellow fiasco help balance tradition and progress? How did it comport with VC's purported goal of environmental sustainability?

Is playing catch-up for past VC failures to plan and collect taxes accordingly in order to pay for maintenance and other obligations now called 'innovating?'

How does one applaud an involved citizenry on the one hand and bemoan problems of deficient/non-existent communication between VC and citizens on the other?

How different will a “new” comp plan be

- i) when the lead consultant is the same one that assisted on the prior ones AND
- ii) when three of the seven members of VC participating in this effort participated in the previous comp plan exercises AND,
- iii) judging by the comments of the two of the three present for the workshop, little in their thinking and priorities has changed?

(No explanation was given for CC’s absence, but I find it hard to imagine his absence made much difference.)

Notably, for example, Comm T reiterated his support for local government as a vehicle of class warfare between property-rich locales and their not-so-property-rich neighbors. How better to keep prop taxes as low as possible for the property rich than by generating tax revenue paid by non-residents? T’s Republican Party’s notion of being fiscally responsible in a nutshell — get someone else to pay for it.

DG residents apparently agree ... in that they keep electing him and his like-minded brethren.

Will the upcoming workshops with residents be more instructive and useful?

Stay tuned.

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Comment: Comment on the sclerosis of American democracy

Is it coincidence that the sclerosis of American democracy is on full view in the personage of the individuals currently leading as the two major political parties’ candidates in the upcoming presidential election?

One is a pathogenic liar whose rambling utterances include occasional brushes with facts and logic and offer occasional challenges to the nation’s self-serving lies. The other is a

purveyor of those self-serving lies whose less-than-vibrant personal traits now undermine those lies' credibility.

How does one decide who/what is worse, the lesser of two evils? For example, which is worse: Trump being a puppet of Putin or Biden being a puppet of Netanyahu? Which puppetry has resulted in more death and destruction?

Are any US pols not puppets of Netanyahu and the conservative Israel lobby in the US?

Example: What is one to make of Rep N Pelosi's claim protests in the US against Israel's destruction of Gaza are fomented, paid for and supported by Russia and Putin? Besides being an insult to the sincerity of the protesters, such an assertion conveniently ignores the decades of known interference by the US in numerous countries' affairs around the world? Not least of which is the tragic mess such interference has created in Eastern Europe.

As Jeffrey Sachs discusses here:

<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/cia-destablizes-the-world>

Since Oct, DG's VC has said nothing about the destruction in Gaza, or the related killing by the US military in retaliation for deaths of 3 soldiers. The latter countermeasures conveniently ignore that the wounded and killed soldiers are part of the vast contingent of troops stationed illegally in Syria and Iraq for precisely the reason we now witness — as an excuse, a tripwire for further US military aggression.

DG's VC of course has much more important matters to attend to, like the Fairview Ave project and all the big planning exercises coming up.

The (proxy) conflicts to which the US is party has nothing to do with any of that, right?

So should we then presume one can distinguish between German citizens' acceptance of the Holocaust and American citizens' acceptance of similar wreaking of death upon Gazans and countless others? Does one claim the distinction is based legitimately on the idea the US does not kill its own citizens (at least not often, and not on US soil if it can be avoided), implying it's perfectly ok as far as Americans are concerned for the US to go around the world killing whomever it wants on the grounds they were a threat to (the conveniently amorphous notion of) "US interests"?

Is it any wonder the rest of the world questions Americans' humanity and morality?

Some would perhaps claim a differentiation between a government's actions and its citizens' preferences. The US is poster child of that separation — between what the average citizen wants and what the US government does ... on behalf of its ruling elites.

But if one accepts the claim Israel is justified attacking Gaza on the presumption Gaza's citizenry supports Hamas, how does one avoid a similar attribution holding US citizens responsible for its government's nefarious/belligerent activities? On what basis do Americans get to wash their hands of responsibility?

Should Americans deem it significant that Biden now says Israel's response has been 'over the top' ... even as he pushes for more of the very aid that underpins Israel's excess? Dem Party apologists say the Biden admin is "doing all it can" to avoid Gaza's annihilation, as if stopping the funding and the shipments of weapons are NOT part of the set of actions available to it.

Thus, we see the absurdity of what constitutes 'compromise' these days in the request for more US funding to support Israel's destruction of Gaza 'balanced' by a modicum for humanitarian aid to those affected.

(Well off) Americans have grown accustomed to such absurdity thanks to our domestic politics, in which for example the typical political compromise gives US corporations massive tax breaks 'balanced' by financial breadcrumbs to programs serving the poor.

For a sense of the havoc Israel is wreaking on Gaza, listen to Ben Joravsky's 06 Feb interview of Dr. Thaer Ahmad, a local Palestinian American emergency medicine doctor who recently returned from working in Gaza.

To find the interview, scroll down the list posted here:

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

Aggravating the current political chaos and mayhem: Trump, Biden, and Netanyahu each risk literal legal jeopardy once out of office and the political dust settles.

While Trump is technically not 'in office', he clearly is 'in power.' His desire/effort to run again for the presidency has now exposed the impotence of the "insurrection clause" of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution and reaffirmed the broken condition of the American nomination and electoral processes.

Defects in Israel's and US' politics are now reinforcing each other, pushing both nations further to the right. Even with the International Court of Justice decision (somewhat) against Israel's assault on Gaza, the fascism in Israel — its far right politicians voicing Israel's genocidal objectives toward Palestinians and Zionism's total rejection of the possibility of a Palestinian state— goes either unreported or sympathetically reported in US mainstream media.

A situation Chris Hedges bemoans here:

<https://consortiumnews.com/2024/02/09/chris-hedges-let-them-eat-dirt/>

Do we see much genuine debate in the US about the connection between the military-industrial complex and the nation's predisposition to fostering conflict?

Hardly.

Even prez candidate RFKj, while questioning the fighting in Ukraine, voices support for Israel and disdain for Palestine. Trump's remaining challenger, Nikki Haley, is gung-ho on both counts, as are most Republicans.

Meanwhile, humanitarian agencies' refusal to get involved is another travesty Hedges bemoans:

<https://consortiumnews.com/2024/02/07/chris-hedges-the-silence-of-the-damned/>

Do Americans know about the pathetic history of the Middle East conflict? Do they know for example — according to conversations on the Judging Freedom podcast — Arab nations offered decades ago to have peace with Israel on condition of creation of a Palestinian state. Israel turned the offer down. (Discussed in separate interviews on 07 Feb 2024 with Aaron Mate AND Jeffrey Sachs.)

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

Finally, perhaps no example of sclerosis in American politics is more telling than politician and media reaction (both before and after) to Tucker Carlson's interview of Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

You can find the interview here:

<https://tucker Carlson.com/the-vladimir-putin-interview/>

If Americans really believed in free speech and had the capacity to be open-minded, such an interview would be welcomed, not dismissed as giving comfort to the enemy.

The interview's content exposes precisely why it is so unwelcome by American leaders, in that:

i) It provides a completely different narrative of events and ideas than the one fed to Americans about what is happening in Ukraine and,

perhaps even more importantly,

ii) Putin comes across as a leader much more competent, informed, and rational than anyone offered by/acceptable to the major political parties in the US.

In other words, Putin comes across as hardly the monster American pols have painted him to be. And that IS a problem.

If you don't want to watch the interview, one person's helpful listing of key points from it is here:

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/02/12/putins-15-major-points-in-tucker-carlson-interview/>

Leaders of both major US political parties posture at best and lie at worst, the latter increasingly frequently.

What is the average citizen to do?

As Putin intimated, is American politicians' (reliable) invocation of the 'threat' posed by external enemies nothing other than an effort to maintain (a modicum of) unity in the face of their inability to solve real domestic problems?

How does one find common ground in a society riven by grievances during times of economic decline?

Think such questions are NOT DG residents' problem?

Think such questions should remain outside the bounds of VC's effort to put together a new comprehensive plan for DG?

You might want to think again.