

NEWSLETTER

The problem with being a Carlsbad resident of 38 years is remembering the true means of what was promised.

Our July Newsletter concluded with:

To Carlsbad City Council — Citizens worldwide are expressing their dissatisfaction with government

UK leaves the EU • Trump Decimates All The Republican Candidates • Carlsbad Votes Down Measure A

After more than two years of ignoring citizens' requests for an open and truthful conversation on McClellan-Palomar Airport expansion, when will the Council finally acquiesce to open and truthful conversation?

Consistent with years of previous requests from citizens of Carlsbad, today's Carlsbad City Council still refuses to openly bring the concerns about the airport expansion to the forefront. WHY???

Sitting back and second guessing is easy, but lately more and more concerns continue to arise: In watching the June 21, 2016, Carlsbad City Council Meeting, Council Member Blackburn stated, *"Something I have realized in my eight years on the council, it doesn't matter what the project is, it always comes in way more expensive than what we expected and that is just becoming part of doing business anymore."* That statement seems extremely naive when it comes to business, especially after the Measure A debacle.

I would think Mr. Robert (Bob) Toll, Executive Chairman of the Board of Toll Brothers or one of his Vice Presidents, Mr. Greg Deacon, Assistant Vice President responsible for the Toll Brothers' Robertson Ranch project, would vehemently disagree with Mr. Blackburn's statement. I would assume both Mr. Toll and Mr. Deacon would tell Mr. Blackburn that to be successful with large projects requires a competent project plan, competent management and vigorous cost controls.

Things all successful business persons understand:

- NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, EVER put off addressing something that could potentially destroy the company.
- Sit, listen and talk honestly and openly with all concerned parties.
- Bring all the necessary experts (pro and con) together to identify and solve any issue ASAP.
- Always take care of the little things; the big things will take care of themselves.
- You are what you deliver, not what you promise. Do not confuse effort with results.

But in Carlsbad today, true business sense does not seem to be found in the DNA of our politicians. If it were, NO contract awarded by the city would be obscenely over budget, consultants would not be running so far amok and the citizens would not be continually ignored.

Sometime events can no longer be ignored without having to ask — what is wrong, why is so much money being routinely wasted and why are Carlsbad citizens being ignored? For example:

1. Measure A was defeated after a reported \$11M spent by the developer, full support for Measure A was provided by City Council and Councilman Mark Packard's [slick commercial](#), and the Council rushed for an expensive special election; even though, more than 40% speaking at the Council meeting requested the Council place the vote on the June or November ballot.
2. The Measure A special election city budget was \$620K. If the Council had simply elected to place Measure A on the June or November ballot, it reportedly would only have cost approximately \$35,000.
3. On May 11, 2016, Carlsbad asked the California Coastal Commission to rezone the same defeated Measure A property from "Travel Services" to "**multi-use Visitor Commercial Property**" - [Click to see link](#).
4. Carlsbad Village and Barrio Master Plan Project was canceled after the community expressed their outrage over the plan. Reportedly \$381,000 was spent/wasted and consultants were fired.
5. The Crossings Golf Course was originally budgeted NOT TO EXCEED \$20 million. The final cost was reportedly over \$70 million — the most expensive municipal golf course in the nation. Why?
6. The Crossings Golf Course opened in 2007, at a time when the golfing industry was already in a secular decline with a continuing dramatic fall off of golfers. That trend has only increased since 2007, with 2013 seeing 14 new courses and 157 closures. Additionally, since the 2007 Crossings opening, it is reported that Carlsbad has had to subsidize the golf course via a \$1 to \$2M loan per year to be repaid when the operation became profitable. BUT, in 2011, reportedly the Council elected to change the

terms of the contract making the Crossings a fully subsidized City property and all previous loans were canceled with no requirement to refund any monies previously expended by the city. Since there was no loan liability or the original \$70 million general fund cost shown on the City accounting, that could be why the 2014 - 2015 budget and 2016 - 2017 proposed budget show the Crossings was profitable?

What will happen to the so-called Crossings profitability when 100 passenger jets and the larger business jets takeoff directly over the Crossings' greens, not to mention Legoland's profitability? Both will be inundated with tons and tons of jet engine pollution and excessive noise.

7. Three (3) City Mangers abruptly resigned in three (3) years
8. On March 24, 2015, Carlsbad announced that April 14, 2015, would be the last day on the job for Mr. Steven R. Sarkozy, Carlsbad's City Manager. Mr. Sarkozy suddenly resigned on March 24, 2015, only five weeks after he was questioned about why Carlsbad is not enforcing its Conditional Land Permit (CUP) 172 and Ordinance 21.53.015 on the proposed County airport expansion. A City spokeswoman said, "Under the terms of his contract, Sarkozy would receive either a cash payout equal to one full year of his \$260,000 base salary" (a salary 10% higher than any other city manager in San Diego County) "or will continue to collect his salary and health benefits for 12 months." BUT, if you read Mr. Sarkozy 's employment agreement, since he reportedly resigned voluntarily — no additional salary was required. Why did the Council agree to the severance package of more than \$260,000?
9. On January 12, 2016, Carlsbad announced the hiring of Mr. Kevin Crawford as City Manager with a base salary of \$286,000 — \$26,000 higher than Mr. Sarkozy's salary, which was already the highest city manager salary in San Diego County.
10. 2002 Proposition C defined the vision for a trail system in and around Carlsbad. The City Council then appropriated \$5 million to get it done. As of today, it is not done and according to the June 21, 2016, Council Meeting, there is not even a formal plan to get it done. Fourteen years after the monies were appropriated there has been no action, not even during the "Great Recession" when considerable cost reduction would have been realized. The good news is early in 2017 a citizens committee will finally be formed to study what can be done to comply with the 2002 City Council mandate.

For more than two years, the Council has been asked and asked to begin a true and open conversation with the citizens of Carlsbad on how the airport expansion will destroy ALL of Carlsbad's quality of life and the neighboring communities. BUT, as of this newsletter, NO conversation has been forthcoming. Instead, there has only been a statement by Mayor Hall in the 2014 State of the City Address. When he was asked about the runway extension, to paraphrase, he answered — it is only to allow business jets to fly nonstop to China; it's not a big deal. FACT — only .003% of CRQ business jet traffic can fly nonstop to China and they are not certified to fly out of CRQ.

Considering the previous ten points and Mayor Hall's apparent lack of concern about airport expansion and Council Member Blackburn's "... cost more than expected..." statements, we are reminded of the words of Will Rogers:

"I do not make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."

The simple fact is that Carlsbad has a Community Vision Statement. According to that vision statement, **"Thousand of community members have participated"** in developing that vision and expect their government officials to uphold it. As of yet, our government has completely ignored the Community Vision when it comes to the airport. WHY?

FACT — There seems to be no concern from the city regarding the new County Airport Master plan:

- In direct violation of what Carlsbad first agreed to in accepting the airport in its community
- In direct violation of Carlsbad's Community Healthy Lifestyle Vision
- The County assumes that because the airport exists today on County Land, the County can expand CRQ as required. BUT on Page 2-11 of the "Runway Feasibility Study Final Report - Aug 1, 2013" it is acknowledged that Carlsbad's CUP 172 and Ordinance 21.53.015 Carlsbad can prevent the expansion.

To put it as plainly as possible, nowhere in the Carlsbad Community Vision will you find breathing airport polluted air with tons and tons of health destroying greenhouse gases acceptable to Carlsbad citizens.

Link to Community Vision: <http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/depts/planning/update/values.asp>