



Larry Herrera/CC/CLB

08/08/2012 04:59 PM

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Subject Fw: Just the Facts.....Budget Oversight Committee 8-15-12
Agenda #6

From: diana lejins [dianalejins@yahoo.com]

Sent: 08/08/2012 03:47 PM MST

To: Larry Herrera

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Subject: Just the Facts.....Budget Oversight Committee 8-15-12 Agenda #6

Dear Budget Oversight Committee

Isn't it amazing how elected officials such as Councilman O'Donnell can become so adept at spinning their most egregious actions into something heroic?!

The Councilman need only check out a stack of documents that repeatedly say that the dog park in question must be privately funded as the City does not have adequate funds to pay for this project. This is a teacher who doesn't do his homework (or tells the public that the dog ate it).

Anytime a new feature is added, expenses occur. A great deal of valuable staff time and other costs have already been frivolously wasted on this endeavor. If Friends cannot raise enough funds to build and sustain this park, then the City will be on the hook to fund another maintenance expense that it can't afford. If Recreation Park is any example, we will be saddled with another eyesore.

According to proponent Mary Matthiensen, the group has raised about \$40,000 toward the potential park. Yet, in the May LB Post she alleges that the group has raised some \$73,000; and their website claims approximately \$68,000 in donations.

What is the truth? And, how much is public (City) or private money?!

Repeatedly the point has been made that the City is in dire financial straits and cannot afford to subsidize this dog park. Time and again, Friends has agreed and understood that they must privately provide the funds to build and maintain it. All of the "spin" in the World won't change this.

Like the rest of us, the City has a budget and a responsibility to all of its citizens to spend our hard-earned tax dollars wisely. The public has been struggling through one of the worst recessions in history and has no desire to pay more taxes. There are already at least six dog parks in Long Beach; another one is not a necessity. If Friends cannot raise the money through private donations, then the park should not be built. It's just as simple as that.

Diana Lejins

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Working to make the World a better place,
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