

Dear Friends,

There are only two weeks remaining until a very important election that will determine the future direction of our city. Coeur d'Alene, like the rest of the country, is in the midst of a recession of near historic proportions, but unlike many other cities our hometown is riding out this economic downturn in a good position as a result of the judgment, leadership and teamwork of the current city council.

Deanna Goodlander is a part of the elected leadership of this city that passed a 0% property tax increase this year. As a result, most homeowners in the city will see a decrease in their property taxes in the coming year. To accomplish this, city leadership worked with city employees who voluntarily gave up their contracted pay increases, among other cuts and efficiencies. It is not the type of activity that gets touted in the newspapers or gets coverage in the TV news media, but it is exactly the kind of teamwork needed to help Coeur d'Alene survive and thrive during these difficult economic times.

Unfortunately we feel the city would not be well served by the poor judgment and divisiveness that Dan Gookin brings to the public arena. Mr. Gookin is running against Deanna Goodlander. Dan Gookin has frequently displayed a clear inability to show good judgment and work constructively as part of a leadership team through his writings and public community outbursts.

Here are just two notable examples:

**ITEM 1:** *During the construction of the park and pond at Riverstone, Mr. Gookin heard a rumor that the Spokane River was being "illegally diverted" to fill up the pond. Rather than investigate further to determine whether this information was actually valid, his behind the scenes working group contacted the media and a local newspaper reporter and photographer were led by Mr. Gookin on a "wild goose chase" which turned up no wrongdoing<sup>i</sup>. Dan Gookin preferred publicity and an attempt at "gotcha politics" over fact finding and problem solving.*

That is not the judgment and foresight we need in city hall.

**ITEM 2:** *Dan Gookin opposed the cooperation between the LCDC and School District 271 in their effort to finance required ADA renovations to Sorensen Elementary School. In doing so Mr. Gookin called School Board Trustees, city officials and members of the local news media: "ethically challenged bozos, both elected and in the press, who seem to have no needle on their moral compass. To hell with them I say."<sup>ii</sup>*

That is not the cooperation with community partners that we need in City Hall.

We have witnessed Deanna Goodlander's leadership and cooperative efforts on behalf of all citizens. We see it in the city's successful recruitment of a \$70 million dollar Kroc Center building and endowment and the 175 jobs created there. We see it in the beautiful new Public Library and the 1,000 patrons a week who utilize that facility. We see it in her actions – she walks the talk. The future of Coeur d'Alene and its citizens is too important to trust to poor judgment and hostile, gotcha politics.

Please join us in supporting Deanna Goodlander for Coeur d'Alene City Council.

Sincerely,

Sandy Patano

Ben Wolfinger

---

<sup>i</sup> Spokesman Review HBO Website, April 2007 and August 2009 (<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/hbo/2009/aug/24/flashback-wild-goose-chase>)

<sup>ii</sup> Coeur d'Alene Press Website, May 15, 2007 ([http://www.cdapress.com/blogs/?req=read&blogger\\_id=134&entry\\_id=309](http://www.cdapress.com/blogs/?req=read&blogger_id=134&entry_id=309))