

Mary Souza's Newsletter

November 2, 2013

Money, Money, Money

The swirl of rumor and innuendo is at an all time high as we enter into these last few days before Election Tuesday. Both newspapers are publishing biased articles and / or opinions, and are also printing personal attack letters from others. Why are these "news" organizations coming after me, a regular, everyday citizen, wife and mother of four? Because they know, as Mayor, I will demand greater accountability for the taxpayers' dollars. Let's follow the money...

The CdA Press, as we all know, is owned by the Hagadone Corp, which also owns the Resort and has a tremendous amount to gain from the McEuen Park upgrade that is funded primarily by LCDC urban renewal. It is critical to their future plans that their team of Steve Widmyer, Kiki Miller, Amy Evans and incumbent Woody McEvers get elected.

The Spokesman Review is owned by the Cowles family, which is a big supporter/investor in Spokane area urban renewal developments. They are also one of the top five private land owners in Kootenai County. If significant changes are made to LCDC urban renewal here, it could negatively impact their potential projects, so they support the insider team as well.

The select, favored, local developers and builders are hoping for big contracts for the possible NIC Arena, the Four Corners project (which could take away Memorial Field) and buildings on the Education Corridor. All of these projects could depend on LCDC urban renewal staying just as it is, so they want a team they can control.

Are you noticing a theme here? LCDC is the power. They have control over the big money. Yes, it's all taxpayer money, but the squishy old laws allow the unelected LCDC board to spend millions and millions of taxpayer dollars, with almost no oversight.

And therein lies the rub. The power players in town know that I want to rein in LCDC and make it more accountable. I have been informing citizens about LCDC for years and, back in 2008, I wrote a list of seven problems and solutions for LCDC. After reviewing it for a candidate interview about a month ago, even I was surprised to see that all but one of the points are still serious problems. You can read the list on my web site at: www.MaryforMayorCdA.com

I have no property or business ownership in the LCDC areas but my opponent, Steve Widmyer, owns 6 properties inside their district! One of his buildings is right across the street from McEuen Park and another of his buildings is near the corner of 4th & Sherman. Both will benefit greatly from the park upgrade.

Steve stayed silent on the public advisory vote at the time but now says, very carefully, that he "could" have supported it. Kiki Miller says the same, and Amy Evans said she would

never be in favor of a public advisory vote on anything. We all know that Woody voted against our right to an advisory vote, and I'm personally amazed he chose to run again.

What will my opponent do with or for LCDC? Well, it's certain the power group is backing him all the way. Steve worked for the Hagadone Corp. for 16 years, is on the Downtown Association Board, he lives & works downtown and most of his \$15 million worth of rental properties are downtown. He's one of the boys.

Will Steve work for the people of CdA? His past performance is concerning. Steve actually ran for public office back in 1996 and was elected to the NIC Board of Trustees. After only 7 months into his 6 year term, Steve quit. His letter of resignation was quoted in the Spokesman, as saying "To be a public official, it takes a certain type of individual and I'm not one of those types."

Steve says he has extensive financial expertise, and has given the impression he is a CPA, which he was at one time but is not now. But he had to file an "Addendum" to his first, October 10th Candidate Financial Disclosure report because he apparently forgot to list more than \$1700 in expenses. The unsettling thing is that he didn't file the Addendum until Oct. 28th, almost three weeks later. You can read these reports by clicking the following link: [Financial Disclosure reports for all the candidates](#) There are some very interesting bits and you can see all the donors and expenses.

So, dear Readers, we are near the end of this long but for the most part uplifting process. It's been an incredible journey. Thank you for your support, for overwhelming us with approvals for using your names, and for sticking with me when the mud is flying. We're taking the high road, as we always do.

Here's some fun: We've got radio ads running right now, and you can also hear the ads by going to my web site, www.MaryforMayorCdA.com Two of them are serious ads that I recorded, and one is a "jingle" by my wonderful husband. He wrote it, sang it while playing his ukelele, and then they added a background track of him on his conga drums. It's very cool!

Also, our big, full page ad is in this week's Nickel's Worth. It's got hundreds of your names on it, along some great endorsement quotes and some serious information. There's also an informative half-page ad right next to it that is from one of my supporters. Please take a look, I think you'll like them. (If your name did not appear on the endorsement ad, please forgive us—our designer used as many names as possible for the space, in no particular order, but there were far more than would even begin to fit. Please know we appreciate each and every one of you and we'll try to get them all up on our web page, along with the many additional endorsement quotes.)

Remember to check my web site for any questions about the dirt they are throwing, and please tell your friends to do the same. Keep talking with everyone you know and pass the word. THAT'S how we can change the grip of power in our town—person to person.