

Subject: Joint Council Workshop;

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

My suspicions are growing that the real reasons why the scheduled meetings between the City and the District on the Joint Recreation Services between the two partners have been delayed again and again have more to do with politics rather than summer holidays. Such a meeting has been planned for months but nothing has come of it.

It is no secret that the District is subsidizing the City. The District subsidy to the Rec. Commission is close to \$ 6 million a year. The City does not contribute a single penny to the capital maintenance of District facilities even though they have more than half the population of the District. As for playing fields, they have only a fraction of the number the District has. They are supplying the population and the District is supplying the fields free of charge. No wonder that when it comes to keeping the District neat there is not enough money. Compared to the City some District streets look like disaster areas. The grass on Mountain Highway for example looks like it has not been cut for years.

Any and all attempts on my part to change this situation have been nixed. The civic political and bureaucratic establishment has attempted to sidetrack this issue. No less than three reports were commissioned each costing tens of thousands of dollars. But nothing has changed. To make sure that the cobwebs would not be disturbed I was kept out of the Commission.


That the Rec Commission bureaucracy has a vested interest in maintaining the status quo is no secret. Under the present set up they can do as they please including raising fees for seniors by 54% as they did in one year. They even voted in favor of paying a top bureaucrat \$ 3000 to attend a conference even though the conference takes place after he has left his employment.

Meetings between the City and the District Councils have been scheduled for months but each and every time they have been postponed or cancelled altogether. The "fiddling" continues while Rome burns.

When I recently attended a joint meeting with representatives of the City, the District and School District 44 to review the joint services issue between the Rec Commission and the School Board I raised this matter. However, the very first question the chair asked is whether I was speaking on behalf of District Council or on my own behalf.

I had to tell them that I was speaking on my own behalf since my Council had nixed any and all my efforts to move the whole matter of subsidy to the front burner. However, I also told them that, I hoped the District taxpayers

would put a stop to this in the next election. I told them that the issue would definitely be raised.

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