

Skykomish Senate



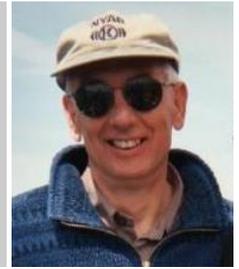
Politically Incorrect

News

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Dieter Benz

Working to Promote American Values in Skykomish

Speaking our minds

feedback

88 copies of first edition of the Senate were emailed:

One individual asked to unsubscribe as she no longer lives in the area. Another, worries that I'm dividing our community. She is of course correct. I am helping to separate the wheat from the chaff, a division between those happy with Sky's present toxic environment and those moving to higher ground through open, honest, frank discussion of important issues facing our community.

We also received four very encouraging responses, one acknowledgement and several great suggestions. Thanks!

Security concerns

One responder voiced concern that an email or attachment from the Senate could be infected with a virus.

All emails, including attachments from the Senate are coming to you directly from Microsoft and have been fully screened by MSN.

We have the same assurance that replies from you are MSN screened as well.

There is a danger: We've heard some are forwarding the Senate to friends who may not be on our emailing list.

This could cause a virus infection if the person forwarding has an infected computer and you do not possess adequate virus protection. If you would like to receive the Senate direct, let us know and we'll add you to the list.

is freedom of speech really that important?

The founding fathers thought so, as this principle was incorporated as the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently upheld the sanctity of this right for over 230 years, even when actual cases involved unsavoury characters or issues that most would find repugnant.

Of all nations, not even Canada, the UK nor continental Europe afford their citizens such unprecedented freedom to speak their mind.

speaking out in Sky

As most of you know, I served on Town Council for one two year term.

My very first action was to place a Resolution before Council abolishing existing rules of engagement between the Town and its masters, the people.

Previously, citizens had been limited by their servant to speaking only after an issue had been discussed, only if the mayor acknowledged them and granted permission to speak, only if the item was on Council's agenda and then only for three minutes.



This seemed a bit imperial to me. Large cities like Seattle must have rules so the peoples' business can be efficiently conducted.



Sky, a small town, needs no such limiting of dialogue with constituents.

My Resolution allowed Town citizens to speak at any time without even having to raise one's hand or be acknowledged.

Citizens were requested not to interrupt others or use profane language. That was it.

The Resolution passed with the generous support of former Council members Sekor and Oetting. Mayor Mackner, along with Council members Goebel and Wall, expressed opposition.

During my two year tenure we did not once have to silence anyone, even though Mayor Mackner tried on many occasions.

This is testament to the founding fathers' faith that Americans, given the opportunity to govern themselves, could and would do so responsibly.



It is only when people do not understand their government or feel they no longer have an effective voice that things begin to spin out of control.



The founding fathers provided many avenues for Americans to be heard, up to and including revolt if necessary.

a return to the old ways

As soon as my term expired, Council repealed the Resolution and reintroduced the old restrictive rules, along with a new twist: Council avoids discussion of constituent issues by refusing to place them on their agenda. I think you get the picture.

Why has council taken such deliberate action to cut itself off from the very people it is charged with representing?

Council has become so lazy and corrupt that the thing it fears most is being exposed to the light of day.

We often see this bunker mentality develop as the list of stuff that needs to be hidden grows.

Some Council members would have you believe the Mayor is the culprit, responsible for all that ails us. This is untrue. Council alone holds responsibility and possesses more than enough tools to bring even the most recalcitrant mayor into line.

A few may be tempted to think the issues I'm discussing are self serving, pertinent mostly to me or the Hotel.

All issues and concerns discussed in these two editions come straight from your neighbours. My disgust has been complete for some time. I no longer have issues or communications with Town Hall or Council.

let's hold hands and sing

Too many Americans have been incorrectly schooled to believe that participation in the American political process can best be expressed by politely listening, nodding and harmoniously partnering



with others, celebrating diversity while achieving utopia through consensus.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Politics, like life, can be messy. Open the door to your child's bedroom to confirm.



The founding fathers were themselves a contentious bunch. They didn't make this omelette, the greatest nation on earth, without breaking plenty of eggs.

the mission

Help build a prosperous, sound, environmentally sustainable economic base that compliments and contributes to the natural beauty and history of our community and surrounding area.

This can best be accomplished by first returning Sky government to its citizens.

first steps

We can't set our new house on the lot until the old dilapidated, dysfunctional one is gone.

We would all like to think that by working together, we could turn present government in a positive direction.

This will not be possible. Present policies are no accident. Council is composed of adults, aware of what they are doing.

Those who choose to remain part of the problem, don't know there is a problem, don't care or just like to pretend by attending endless meetings can't be part of a solution.

Those who do not respect the rule of law or the Constitution of the United States cannot be welcomed.

I love my communist brethren as part of our diverse American political and economic landscape, but do not believe those who cling to failed and discredited ways offer the best path to a prosperous, successful future.

Those who only know 'government speak' (*We must all work together, partnering in diversity and consensus as stakeholders...*) must go back to their cubicles, complete the crossword puzzles and continue surfing the Net.

Pouring the foundation

Once these aberrations are swept out, Sky will be ready to lay the footing that will support a strong foundation.

Future editions:

1. Building a platform that is broad, inclusive, focused and attainable.
2. Encouraging present office holders to perform their duties and meet their obligations during the remainder of their terms or resign.
3. Becoming de-coupled from outdated dogma. When others disagree with you, it doesn't mean they are your enemy.

Think of how much you enjoy promoting diversity to others.

Now, imagine how great it would be if you actually started believing and living this yourself?



5. Overcoming failure to reach consensus. When you deliberately exclude others from the discussion, reaching consensus becomes more difficult.

Mr. Stanovsky knows exactly who I'm talking to and what I'm talking about.

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See You Later Alligator

