

'Use common sense and deliberation when casting your vote'

Part One: Community-building is a "work in progress" and is pursued continuously over the life of a city.

It's tempting to get mired in the easier done details and lose track of an encompassing vision - the thing that ties all of the little acts together and gives them direction. A quality redevelopment is desperately needed in our city to create a "rejuvenation engine." This engine will in turn lead us to those good things such as crime decrease, better education, even better levels of service, preserving and strengthening our assets, advancing the arts, and generally improving our quality of life. These items, and more, are part of the greater rejuvenation effort but they're not the engine. For example, young families will not begin flocking back to Temple Terrace because we've hired one more Police or Code Enforcement Officer, or one school gets an "A" one year. Temple Terrace will be on its way to being a very "hot" place indeed if we can create a vibrant urban core that matches the quality of our existing lovely residential and recreational areas, and still fits in Temple Terrace.

Locals such as Mo' Rendahl (who's moving to Thonotosassa), Mitch Petersen, Bart Siegel, and the others wish to continue the divide-and-conquer polarization that's kept our city in stagnant waters for years; this fractionalization makes them the big men. They seemingly prefer any path as long as it's not the one we're currently on.

It's hard work but we must remain on

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the path that is in the true long-term best interests of the city, and not be swayed by the quick fix or the fast and easy sell out.

Part Two: I'm not going to further address Ken "sue 'em" Tozier, but if you're considering voting for local builder Mark Knapp, for City Council, here's a few Public Record items submitted for your perusal:

—Mark has stated that he'd prefer that our redevelopment property be sold to a developer with the City maintaining control solely through the redevelopment code in place (no plan), yet Mr. Knapp recently refused to follow the same redevelopment code regarding his own property located adjacent to the redevelopment area.

—Mr. Knapp's building expertise (which does not include experience in mixed-use redevelopment) has been suggested as why we need him on City Council, but his experience is in building what we don't want built downtown, that is, more strip malls.

—Was Mr. Knapp's signing of a five-year office lease with two (2) five-year options in the La Beacon Plaza building in the city's best interests when he knew the city would soon be purchasing this building for the redevelopment, and thus be encumbered with substantial buy-out costs for his lease?

—Lastly, during his previous City Council tenure from Nov. 15 1994 through June 18

2002, Mr. Knapp missed a total of twenty-five (25) Regular Council Meetings and Work Sessions, more meetings than the other Council members combined. During that same period, Fran Barford missed four (4) meetings as both Council member and Mayor. Is this the level of dedication we desire?

Fellow citizens, please use common sense and deliberation when casting your vote.

In community spirit,
Grant Rimbey
Temple Terrace

Grant is President of the Citizens for the Revitalization of Temple Terrace and the Temple Terrace Preservation Society, Vice-Chair of the Redevelopment Task Force, and is a practicing local architect and planner.