

Response to “Fear-Based Planning” by Sam Borgese in the June issue of The Sandpiper

Don Mosier, Del Mar City Councilmember

A few months ago, I was heartened that a new day in national politics had arrived when President Obama said in his inaugural address, “On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord. On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics.”

In the last issue of the Sandpiper, Sam Borgese used the word fear seven times in attacking the approval process and the resulting sidewalk cafés being installed on 15th Street. While there are legitimate concerns on both counts, the tone of this “Opinion” piece is inappropriate and is an unfortunate return to the petty grievances and recriminations that for far too long have strangled our local politics. Revitalization of the downtown will inevitably result in new facilities for both residents and visitors. We may differ on what these new additions or buildings will look like, but let’s have public discussion (as was the case for the 15th Street cafés), reach a consensus, and move on.

The Sandpiper was started to provide an unbiased source of information for community residents, and it has done a superb job of providing interesting, thought-provoking commentary. I would welcome an editorial and op-ed page, with opposing points of view calmly presented, to help resolve items of contention. However, an op-ed “Opinion” without a balanced reply fails this objective. I reject the assertion that the Council is acting to support “crass commercialism” out of a sense of “fear (x7)”. Del Mar faces financial challenges more severe than any in its history, but we are better prepared than most cities to weather these difficult times. We will need to stay focused and united to maintain the village we all love. I choose hope over fear, and I hope that you will too.