

Mme. Mayor and Commissioners:

It was clear from this past Wednesday's City Commission meeting that Fury's proposal to renovate and construct a museum at the Old Thompson House was not what this Commission wanted. That said, we respectfully withdraw our proposal.

It's our hope that the City will issue a new RFP for this property so that community members who spoke so passionately about alternative ideas and plans can propose this time. We will consider re-proposing based on the RFP criteria.

Having gone through this process, there are a couple of things that I think should be addressed.

1. How is it fair that all those that opposed our project were able to meet with several of the commissioners at the proposed location, be misinformed, while I was held to a cone of silence?
2. Why was City staff's integrity brought into question during this meeting? It was very clear City Staff was being questioned as to the validity of data presented.
3. Why was opposing speakers allowed to discuss matters completely irrelevant to the topic at hand (Fury Litigation)?

Did you know that EVERY one of the people that spoke against our project was contacted by me over a week before our meeting? Did you know that one of the biggest opposition speakers at the Bight Board meeting, Steve Talbot, was no longer in opposition at the City meeting? Why? Because he was willing to sit with me and I addressed his concerns head on in open and honest dialog. However, many others refused to take my calls. For Josh Rowan to speak with me, I had to wait outside his boat for 20 minutes until he would come off and see me. Monika Haskell met with me but would not say one word, only to tell me after 15 minutes she had other things to do. Yet, she had a lot to say at the City Commission meeting.

We answered the City's letter of interest with what we thought was a community and tourism-minded proposal. There was NO requirement in the City request to restore and put in a museum but we believed it was something that would be truly beneficial for our community and other Bight tenants. From the first Bight Board meeting we have had to defend and fight for something that we were the only one to propose on!

When I came before you, it was heartfelt that what I proposed was not only good for tourism and our island community, but I walked away feeling as if several of you thought I was trying to pull the wool over your eyes. That's unfortunate because it couldn't be farther from the truth.

I'll close by saying I think it's a pretty sad day when a local business that gives so much back to its island community has to walk away from its City leaders dejected because of a handful of people that were allowed to run a smear campaign and misinform its commissioners.

Respectfully,

Scott Saunders  
Fury Water Adventures

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