

No Standing News

Since we have no standing, we stand with those left standing

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Serving the Outlaw City of Missouri

EEZ or nothing? Who decided the EEZ was our only choice?

We hadn't intended to do more on the ridiculous city-wide blighting for two EEZones but this bad idea just won't die and the proponents are getting downright hysterical. Our own **Senator Barnitz** (D) when asked by the county commissioners last Tuesday what he thought about the EEZ said he had attended an economic development meeting in KC the week before and learned that "businesses were overwhelmingly attracted to areas with educated workers rather than areas offering subsidies." State **Representative "Doc" Brown** (R) tried to tell them "There seems to be a lot of opposition, and the initial area was probably a little bit too large," Brown said. "There is opposition to eminent domain, and I'm not in favor of eminent domain." Brown said there seems to be an issue of trust. "There is some mistrust," Brown said. "We have to explain the benefit of it all." "Some" mistrust is a real understatement.

On Monday, Oct. 12th, in a RDN article **Keith Strassner** admitted that "...there is some mistrust out there and I'm sorry for what's happened in the past, but we can't do anything about that." **Ted Day** tried to guilt trip everybody by tying Can Tex to the EEZ application when they have nothing to do with each other. Even if there was an EEZ right now it wouldn't benefit Can Tex or change the decision of the owner and he made that quite clear. Yes, Ted and Keith, there is a serious lack of trust behind the angry public reaction to blighting two cities and large parts of the county for the EEZ and yes the bad feelings do go back 40 years to the greedy and grasping behavior of the **RCDC** and that attitude continues to this day with the Son of RCDC - the RREC. The only difference between the two organizations is RCDC's method is to use public money to buy land and buildings which always magically end up in RCDC's pockets in the name of "Progress" and "Development," whereas the RREC invents taxes schemes for us to pay to finance land development and giveaways in the name of "Progress" and "Development."

In the article, **Rolla West** developer **Mike Woessner** shared this bit of Ozark wisdom, "You're really better off with an EEZ designation than without it, in general." In general, Mikey, we'll pass. This from a guy who is working on having the city create his very own CID sales tax so he can build the highway and infrastructure to his private real estate development - Rolla West. These RREC members have never seen a so-called 'development' program they didn't like especially the kind the public pays for because the banks won't touch Big Box schemes that are collapsing all over the country.

The most outlandish statement made in this article was when Ted Day fondly reminisced about the good old days in 1968 when Daddy and his RCDC friends were supported by what he claimed was an adoring Rolla public and how their antics made Rolla what it is today. That last part about their antics is unfortunately true. Ted Day's proof that the proletariat used to adore the RCDC is contained, he says, in back issues of the Rolla Daily News from the '60's! Imagine anyone naive enough to believe that the Sowers newspaper - the chief propagandist for RCDC, City Hall and RMU - has ever presented any public controversy objectively or looked at anything from the taxpayer's point of view.

The two EEZelots admitted that although community 'leaders' like the RCDC and RREC have screwed us over for decades we should forget all that and trust them now. They sound like a couple of teenagers, ("I swear mom I'll never touch another beer.") They also sound like they're afraid they are not going to get their way and so are ready to make any accusation, (those who disagree with them are just "people...stirring the emotional pot") lay any guilt trip (tell that to the people at Can Tex), claim anything, ("There's no proof that "blight" lowers property values." Really Keith? Tell that to people who used to own homes under TIF shopping centers. That land did go up in value but not for the people who were shoved off their land by eminent domain or threats of it), and use any scare tactic ("Maybe we've had it too good for too long. Our quality of life could change."). Hey you guys making the big salaries, in case you haven't noticed; our quality of life has already changed.

When making the pious comment that someone out there is "stirring the pot" and spreading "misunderstanding and misinformation" we know who he's referring to but we're the ones who have backed up everything we've said about the EEZ with links to the actual statutes and other primary sources. It's the EEZ board, Bax and Prigge that have blundered time after time with what we'll just call, "grossly exaggerated claims presented as facts," quotes from an "[unnamed attorney](#)," and an [EEZ resolution](#) that is as full of flaws and errors as Swiss cheese including claiming that it's the EEZ board that will decide on all the taxes and other goodies they want to give away. NOT. They are the ones that have to rewrite the St. James EEZ application because they didn't prove the whole town was blighted. It's these people who have had to redraw their maps eight times and who are about to create two competing EEZ's in the same county within 12 miles of each other which will result in bidding

wars between our two communities that none of us can afford! So take your condescension and stuff it Teddy.

In all of the decades of mutual back-scratching and under the table deals by the city and RCDC,* the RCDC, the newspaper and city 'leaders' cried the exact same thing you're hearing today from Bax, Day, Strassner and others, that if we don't panic and stampede along with *their* development fad of the day, Rolla will lose out to the competition, "it will be the death of all progress" and "our quality of life could change" and other cheap threats designed to keep you from thinking and asking questions. Like carnival barkers they're trying to stampede us into the tent.... "Hu-ray, hu-ray, hu-ray, last chance to getchur tickets to see Jo Jo the Dog-faced Girl, she walks, she talks....." When you boys were in diapers we wasted our money on our "last

Is "Jo Jo the Dog-faced Girl" really our only choice?

Of course not but they'd like you to think it's your only choice. This week *Forbes* magazine, the business bible, announced in [an article](#) that their annual "[Best States for Business](#)" report picked Virginia because the state offers an aggressive job training service (exactly like the one we have in the Forum shopping center – the Mo. Career Canter office that Bax never mentions) and a [low cost of living](#). A low cost of living is found in towns that don't increase trash, sewer, water and other fees every time they need to plug the leaks in their mismanaged budget. Low cost of living is found in towns that don't charge twice the going rate for power they buy from MoPEP, the "Ponzi Middleman of Power" and it's also a town that has more sense than to blight their entire town just so a few elitists can feel important by giving away taxes or condemning the blighted property for the use of some company that will run like B&S when the freebies expire.

One study Forbes cited was the [Pollina Corporate Real Estate](#) report which also pointed out that Virginia finished in the top three in half the most critical categories, *labor supply, regulatory environment and quality of life*. The study says Virginia benefits from "a highly educated workforce that is expected to expand over the next five years. [Energy costs are 30 percent below the national average](#). The state's tort environment ranks fifth best in the country, according to California think tank Pacific Research Institute. The state government's finances are in good shape." Forbes reporter Kurt Badenhausen pointed out that, "Our [Forbes] Best States ranking measures [six vital categories for businesses: costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, current economic climate, growth prospects and quality of life](#)." (Notice EEZ tax giveaways aren't on that list) Forbes says, "We factor in 33 different points of data to determine the ranks in the six main areas. Business costs, which include labor, energy and taxes are weighted the most heavily. We relied on nine different data providers. Moody's Economy.com is the most-utilized resource."

chance" to see the Dog-Faced Girl but she didn't have a dog's face – she was just real ugly and so are all these out-dated, canned, bureaucratic, development schemes copied by people with no imagination and no interest in finding out better methods.

No Ted, let's not go back to the good old days. In the face of all RCDC's well-documented rip-off's, Day wails that he wishes we could return to the good old days when everybody trusted the city and the RCDC! Thanks, but we prefer the present. Now we at least have the Sunshine law and the Internet. It's not much but at least it's not so easy these days for the good old boys to secretly pass pork down the development pipeline. Not having the old smoke-filled back room - that's what's really gotten up their noses.

The Pollina web site has an order form so anyone can get their entire detailed study for \$45. If you want to see what we *should be doing* but will never get a chance to do, better order your own copy because the small group of elites in the RREC, and **Elizabeth Bax** and her EEZ committees have no interest in studying such research. They have picked one canned program for us to "choose" from – it's the EEZ or nothing. As you can tell from the sarcastic comments from **Rolla EEZ Chairman Keith Strassner**, (TIF committee, school board member, RREC member, Mr. Everything) the purpose of the two EEZ committees is to force the RREC's pre-digested "choice" down our throats. They are not a committee designed to study strategies and the best options available so we can model our own development efforts on those used by Virginia and other successful states and towns which are highlighted in the Forbes and Pollina studies. These people didn't sign on to do any real work on economic development issues and strategies - they're just the RREC's Punch and Judy Show. According to these EEZelots, they don't need to do any research or study the issues or controversy about giving out incentives, an EEZ must be the only right thing to do because Bax says so and because they were appointed to the board to do it – right? Case closed. Once again Rolla's 'ruling classes' in their ignorance and arrogance have their blinders on and are taking, not The Road Less Traveled, but the Road Everyone Else Avoids.

News Alert! Chamber of Decorators endorses EEZ. Bax and the EEZ board have been reduced to scrounging up blind endorsements from groups like the Rolla Chamber of Decorators. The Chamber gets an annual welfare check of over \$250,000 from the city so what else are they going to say but, "We just love Jo Jo the Dog-faced Girl."

The city is always boss...they say. At the end of the article they took pains to point out that the **REAL hearing tonight at 6:30 pm in the Rolla City Hall** is "the formal, legal hearing that will have impact on Rolla's EEZ application." The meeting in the community room at the **Phelps County**

Courthouse the following week on Oct. 21st at 7 pm is not...they say.

You see, if only a few people show up to the city meeting but lots of people show up at the county meeting saying something different it's going to be a big problem for Bax and the EEZelots because they have to hand in their sign-up sheets and a transcript of the meeting *with the application*. It's going to look funny if only the EEZ board and city council show up tonight but lots of county people go to the county meeting next Wednesday at 7 pm in the courthouse and say the opposite. In St. James only 16 people showed up. The EEZ board, the city council, one reporter and two weren't county residents.

This comment was a "We'll show you the city is boss" slam. It is true that the county meeting hasn't been advertised as a legal public EEZ hearing but it takes the votes

and signatures of the county commissioners to send in this EEZ application because of the large portions of county land still included in the zone. *Without the vote of two of the three commissioners there is no EEZ.*

Have the Phelps County Commissioners secretly promised to sign? Is their county meeting on October 21st just a sop or will **County Commissioners Randy Verkamp, Bud Dean and Larry Stratman** really wait to hear from county residents before they decide on this EEZ which has already been rejected by county residents twice?

*See NSN series "**Hy-Point – the Black Hole of Tax Assessment,**" see [index](#) starts at Issue # 27, 28,29,31,34, etc. (The rest of the story that wasn't in the RDN and Ted's Dad didn't tell him.)

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