

October 6, 2020

From: Stan Golovich

To: Benicia City Council

Subj: The Flag and the onion (2)

A new American flag is now flying proudly and properly at McDonald's on E. Second Street.

Unfortunately, another layer of political stink was recently set loose with indisputable evidence of campaign literature plagiarism by a City Council candidate.

As expected, attack ads paid for by the crude oil industry, aimed at directing voters away from Steve Young for Mayor, are now showing up on social media and in glossy mailers, just as was done in 2018 when Planning Commission Chair Birdseye was openly attacked in order to steer voters to oil industry preferred candidates now on this council.

Benicia elections 2020; personal attacks, corruption, lying, fact-bending, plagiarism, and selective transparency. Fortunately, print and social media commentary indicate our community is woke to the dirty politics infecting our small town's electoral processes, who is behind it, and who benefits from it.

The time is right for Benicia voters to clean house on unethical and dishonest politicians favored by the crude oil industry and its allies.

Stan Golovich  
Benicia

February 22, 2020

Subject: Restoration of the Benicia Railroad Depot

Dear Chair Reynolds and members of the Historic Preservation Committee:



*The goal of the Historical Society is to preserve the history and heritage of our city for future generations and enhance historic Benicia through education, communication and community involvement.*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Benicia Historical Society, I would like to offer the Historical Society's perspective on the restoration and preservation of one of the elements of the Benicia's Historic Inventory. Namely, we are concerned with the city-owned Benicia Central Pacific Railroad Depot, located at the end of First Street.

It has come to our attention that some funds have become available specially for historic preservation as a result of the settlement of the recent Amports litigation concerning the Yuba property. The Historical Society feels that the Depot should be at the top of the list for utilizing those funds. We offer a two-phase plan for restoring and developing the Depot as an historical asset.

Phase I:

- a. Make the freight room ADA compliant and available and attractive for public use. Specifically, the interior needs to be finished with drywall, electrical upgrades and appropriate finishes. This room could provide meeting space, art gallery installations and historical displays.
- b. The Depot will need to be ADA accessible. This will require a ramp or a lift.
- c. ADA accessible restroom facilities should be made available. This could be accomplished through the acquisition and restoration of an accessory train car modified for this use. This restored companion car could provide ADA accessible restrooms and there should be sufficient room to add historical displays.

Point to where the Ferry would have loaded and unloaded the rolling stock on the Benicia Spit).

Phase II:

- a. Two disabled parking spaces should be demarcated on First Street in front of the Depot. This would facilitate ADA access to the historical asset.
- b. Parking for the depot should be increased by improving and paving the B Street parking area adjacent to First Street at the First Street Green Sign.
- c. Access to the Depot should be improved by mirroring the promenade walkway, lights and palm trees that presently line the west side of First Street down to the Depot.

We propose that the newly available historic preservation funds be tapped in addition to the city's funds already earmarked for the Depot for Phase I development.

The projects in Phase II are meant to improve access and provide a unified streetscape theme to "point the way" and lead visitors to the Depot. These projects would be more appropriately drawn from other city resources (for example: Measure C funds.)

Thanks to the efforts of the Benicia Historical Society and Dr. David Hyde, the Depot was recently included on the national register. This is an honor bestowed on important historical structures. The Depot played a role in the history of California commerce. It is a reminder of the railroad's impact on the evolution of the City of Benicia. It is an historical asset that can draw visitors to our City. Its position at the bottom of First Street makes it a magnet that attracts visitors along our main downtown thoroughfare. The restored building and its environs add significantly to our City brand as a place to spend "a great day by the bay".

Our goal is for our guests to come and experience Benicia's unique history and unmatched beauty as well as its friendly and engaged community members. We believe the Depot should be the first priority for the city's historic preservation plans. It is with this in mind that we respectfully request that funds be directed in the above described manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Hayes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jerry Hayes,  
President

Benicia Historical Society