



Dear Mayor Clarke and Council Members,

At the last couple of Council meetings discussing the Council vacancy have had an uncomfortable underlying implication that something wrong has happened here. This is a result of the accusations made in the attempt to recall Alex Pederson, which were rebutted publicly and were not proven. Too often people are publicly accused of wrongdoing, their reputation smeared, life ruined, and down the road, there is no headline when the person was not guilty after all. What is wrong is the Concerned Citizens of Capitola & anti rail people with their relentless attacks and accusations against council members and staff, have created this underlying feeling of distrust. What they did to Alex Pederson throughout his abbreviated term was shameful and wrong. They claim lack of transparency, and are making dozens of public records requests for this & that wasting city resources. Now there is all this unwarranted concern for verifying council candidate's residency. Verification is unnecessary, is not standard practice and perpetuates this atmosphere of unfounded distrust.

The anti-rail people and recent Concerned Citizens of Capitola group vilified Alex Pederson and Kristen Brown because they did not oppose the Coastal Rail Trail project and represented Capitola on the SCCRTC. Sadly, they succeeded in "getting rid" (as they say on Next Door) of Alex. He did not deserve to be vilified – he was earnest and dedicated to serving Capitola. Anyone who does not support the anti-rail agenda will receive the same vitriol. Now they are pushing for Susan Westman, who is highly qualified, but they are promoting her as her record shows she opposes the rail trail. Do not support the candidates whose primary issue is to oppose the Coastal rail trail such as Camilla Corvin, Justin Maffia, Kevin McGuire, and Chris Amsden (although his application says he is a supporter of the coastal rail trail?!). Please appoint someone who has experience but is not a representative of the vocal minority hammering the anti-rail agenda, and who can serve with an ability to review the information presented objectively and make decisions based on facts.

On another note: Capitola is 50% renters. Renters have little control over their housing. At any time, an owner can sell the property, increase rent, move in, etc. and a renter is thrown into the rental market with less than 60 days to find a new residence in Capitola if they are a Council member. Do not make it harder to have representatives who are renters, who are more likely younger people with families, are less likely to be white, and are trying to survive the rental market and serve their community.

Thank you,

Paula Bradley, Capitola resident