

More Letters

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The frivolous petition is not based on fact only "personality conflict."

I have known Commissioner Bernhard for years, way back to her time as a county employee and Mayor of Scappoose. Never have I seen such a devoted and knowledgeable elected official. Rita attends meetings and functions that require county attention all over Columbia County.

She is a long-time member of the Columbia Emergency Planning Association and has been involved with some of the major project accomplishments including establishment of a countywide, computer alert network for use in natural or man-made disasters.

I urge fellow voters to resist signing a recall petition against Rita. It will only cost the taxpayers money – money we can use in other places for better things.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Dillard
Communications Manager
Boise Paper Solutions
St. Helens

Bernhard recall try is fiscally irresponsible

To the Editor:

On May 26, 2004, the Board of County Commissioners met with the Park Advisory Commission, Fair Board and members of the Asbury Acres Task Force at the County Fairgrounds. Because the meeting was scheduled at 6:00 p.m., the County provided pizza and pop for the attendees, at a cost of maybe \$100.

At the meeting Public Works Director Dave Hill discussed three proposals for the development of Asbury Acres, a county park next to the Fairgrounds. The Asbury Acres Task Force had considered a proposal which included a soccer field and two baseball fields. Task Force member Peggy Crisp had made a proposal for two soccer fields and two baseball fields. The County Parks Department presented a proposal with a configuration [of] one soccer field and two baseball fields. The meeting was generally amicable and most of the attendees seemed to agree that the Parks Department proposal made the most

sense because it required the least amount of off-site wetlands mitigation. Another meeting was set to discuss the proposals with the Little League and Soccer Association.

The problem with the Asbury Acres site is that much of it is wetlands. For every acre of wetlands that is filled, the law requires from one to three acres of wetlands to be created. Bill Eagle, former director of the Soil and Water Conservation District, has estimated that off-site wetlands mitigation can cost as much as \$500,000 an acre. The proposal presented by Peggy Crisp would require as much as 9 acres of off-site mitigation, at a cost of up to \$4.5 million, plus the cost of developing the baseball and soccer fields. Prior to the May 26 meeting, Crisp's proposal, as I understand, had not been presented to either her own Task Force, or the Parks Advisory Committee, whose job it was to

present recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for the development of Asbury Acres.

[After] the meeting at the Fairgrounds (depending on which version is correct), Peggy Crisp took out recall petitions against Rita Bernhard. When questioned by the media, Crisp declined to comment on the petition or her motives. Asked if frustration over the slow pace of development of Asbury Acres was her motive, (according to the media) she said that wasn't her only reason. The recall papers themselves accuse Bernhard of "fiscal irresponsibility" and "public deception." According to *The Chronicle*, a recall election would cost between \$23,000 and \$25,000.

This week (June 7-11) Crisp came to the Courthouse to ask how much the County had spent on food and refreshments for the meeting, evident-

ly searching for facts to back up her charge of fiscal irresponsibility. She also asked to examine Bernhard's expense records. My understanding is that Bernhard rarely asks for reimbursement of her expenses.

It's ironic that Peggy Crisp wants taxpayers to foot the bill for a \$23,000 recall election, because the County paid for some pizza and pop costing about \$100, and because she's mad that the County is going too slow on her \$4.5 million dollar park proposal.

John K. Knight
St. Helens

Asks voters not to sign Bernhard recall

To the Editor:

On behalf of Boise Paper Solutions, I am asking Columbia County residents to resist signing the recall petition against Commissioner Rita

Bernhard.

Over the past two years, I've had occasion to work with Commissioner Bernhard on several issues that affected local businesses and the community. She comes to the table with an open mind and makes her decisions based on research, community feedback and one-on-one communications. She has taken the lead on many issues at the Regional Workforce Investment Board (RWIB) thereby insuring Columbia County the best of training and employee partnerships in the State.

Rita is honest, hardworking and open-minded. She listens to the citizens she represents. Let's not support a frivolous recall process that is not based on fact. Please do not sign the petition.

Sincerely,
Matt Saxe
Resident Manager
Boise Paper Solutions

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