

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 56

July 10, 2012

By John Hoffmann

### **WARD THREE...THE HOME OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS CONTINUES:**

Perhaps the worst was several months ago when then Ward- 3 alderman Steve Fons, a mortgage lender, voted against a sign variance request from mortgage lender Ray Vinson for his new site along the I-270 service road. But Ward-3 alderman Fred Meyland-Smith probably is worst repeat or serial conflict-of-interest offender in the city. Meyland-Smtih is on the Citizen Advisory Board of Missouri Baptist "Hospital."

How do I know this? Fred tells me so right on his LinkedIn page.

## **Fred Meyland-Smith's Additional Information**

Websites:

- [Company Website](#)
- [Company Website](#)

Interests:

Hunting - N. Dakota pheasant, MO & IA deer, Alaska caribou

Groups and Associations:

Alderman - Town and Country (4 yrs. President of Board) Board of Directors - Wings of Hope (St. Louis MO) Community Advisory Board - Missouri Baptist Hospital Colgate University Alumni Admissions Representative St. Louis Colgate Alumni Club President ('98 - '07)

Fred as a member of the city's Planning and Zoning board and as a member of the Board of Aldermen does not recuse himself when dealing with Mo Baptist issues in front of him despite serving on a board at the hospital.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING APPROVES CHANGES AT MISSOURI BAPTIST**

**MEDICAL CENTER:** Back in 2009 and 2010 Missouri Baptist Hospital basically bribed the city to allow the hospital to violate the city's large campus green space ordinance.

Missouri Baptist was required to have over 51% green space on their campus. At the time they had 55%, but their expansion and construction plans they were going to drop that percentage well below the requirement. Instead of admitting they were allowing green space to be paved over Mayor Dalton and the Board of Aldermen could say how they added a fitness trail at no cost.

**THE BRIBE:** Missouri Baptist over the years had purchased residential property south of the main hospital campus on Glenmaro Lane. They offered to build a fitness trail on eight acres of the residential property that is not part of the campus in exchange for the city counting the residential property toward the overall campus green space. The hospital even sweetened the pot by offering to tie in the fitness trail with a sidewalk connection to Clayton Road.

Missouri Baptist owned all the property on Glenmaro Lane except one house. MoDot agreed to allow the Mo Bap to use I-270 right of way at the back of the houses. All are owned by Mo Bap except the one. The owners of the one home objected to a public path along their rear property line, but the city did not care.

Over two years later Missouri Baptist is finally getting around to building the fitness trail on its property and the MoDot I-270 right of way.

**THE NEW CHANGE:** In the original agreement Missouri Baptist was going to build a 195,000 square foot six-story medical office building.

Now at the recent P&Z meeting they are requesting to change the plans. Instead of the 6-story medical office building Missouri Baptist wants to put that on hold, build two floors of medical offices equaling 95,000 square feet on top of a parking garage that was already planned and has been constructed.

**GREEN, GREEN...NOT SO FAST** It should be perfect since they have built parking garages to handle all the parking needs, now they can return to green space the area where they are not going to build a 6-story office building.

No that is not what is going to happen. Instead Missouri Baptist wants to pave that area for excess surface parking.

**WHY THE CHANGES? THE LARGE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM:** The hospital's consulting engineer, George Stock was doing all the talking during the presentation, but there was a large contingent of senior doctors and other high ranking staff members.

During the presentation no one from Missouri Baptist offered to say why they wanted to downsize and no one on the Planning and Zoning Commission asked.

After the hearing I went outside. I still had my right arm and shoulder immobilized due to fractures and was waiting for my wife to pick me up. Also in front of city hall was the large group from Missouri Baptist. We traded questions and answers.

They asked about my injuries and where I was treated. (St. Johns Mercy...er I mean Mercy Medical Center) This caused them to ask why I didn't go to Missouri Baptist. They told me that Mo Bap has a very good orthopedics department. I explained if my former constituent Dr. Herbert Haupt had not died in April of 2010 after returning from a relief trip to Haiti, I probably would have gone to Missouri Baptist. Haupt was a orthopedist and a chief of staff at Missouri Baptist.

However last week since I had a traumatic injury I thought it was best to go to the top trauma ER in the area even if it was a Friday night. (While I was at Mercy they had three helicopters headed in with patients but one was redirected because they were so busy.)

I then asked if the change in plans had anything to do with a reduction of funding for the project due to the recession or other reasons. Hospital vice president Doug Black admitted that had something to do with the changes.

I asked why someone didn't mention that. It seems that a large change in plans deserved an explanation. No one gave an answer.

Next I asked why the hospital just got city approval for another large lighted sign. This one would be sixty feet in the air, but only would face south. In non winter months only people who were already on the parking lot and residents on Kirken Knoll and Claycrest Drives would be able to see it. I mean after all if money woes were cancelling the major part of an expansion project, why did they want to spend money on a sign that was useless eight months a year? (The sign will be able to be seen during months with no leaves on trees by some motorists on northbound I-270 along with an already existing sign.)

No one could give me an answer on that. However I believe that marketing has a higher priority than medicine at times at Missouri Baptist.

**THE DOG FOOD SALESMAN SPEAKS:** At the P&Z meeting just prior to not announcing he had a conflict of interest with Missouri Baptist, Alderman and Commissioner Fred Meyland-Smith (former Purnia exec) told George Stock and Missouri Baptist officials, “I think the applicant (Mo Bap) is making a responsible and attractive proposal.”

I am not sure how Fred as the self described “dog food salesman” comes up with the fact that slapping some doctors offices on top of a parking garage, paving some open green space is more attractive than the originally approved six-floor medical office building. However, Fred feels he has such expertise.

**JINGLES:** I think Fred is so bias toward his friends at Missouri Baptist and so deep in Missouri Baptist’s pocket that when George Stock sticks his hand in his pocket and moves his fingers, Fred jingles. It was a unanimous vote for the changes.

**MAYOR DALTON GIVES FINGER TO WARD-2 VOTERS:** Just four months after the voters of Ward-2 removed alderman Al Gerber from office with a 60-40 vote in favor of Chuck Lenz, Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton has announced he plans to appoint Gerber to the Conservation Commission as the representative from the Historical Society.

When Gerber was voted out of office he had been the chair of the Conservation Commission which he used as a bully pulpit to fight the city’s lethal deer management programs. Gerber wanted deer sterilized at a cost to taxpayers of \$1,200 per deer.

Gerber vs. Lenz was to many a referendum on deer. The people spoke and did Dalton listen?...apparently not!

The new chair of the Conservation Commission Skip Mange is supporting Gerber being added to the Conservation Commission which is rapidly shrinking. Gerber’s wife is already on the commission. The Conservation Commission and Green Team Commission are not close to being fully staffed. They have been Dalton’s favorite places to stick liberals and increase his voter base. Both the Conservation and Green Team Commissions are heavily stocked with people who either have addresses on the campus of Principia or have connections with Principia.

**DALTON IS DISMISSIVE OF ALDERWOMAN CRAWFORD:** After announcing his plans to appoint Gerber plus Susan Blake and Todd Abrams to Conservation Commission, Dalton acknowledged Alderwoman Gussie Crawford. Gussie mentioned that the lone commission that she chairs, The Community Relations Commission is

rapidly running out of members. Realtor Laura McDonald has moved out of town and the 10 person commission is down to five members. Crawford said that the commission has not met since February due to a lack of a quorum.

She then got a lecture from Dalton that just because there is not a quorum doesn't mean they cannot meet and get things done without a vote. He also said it was up to chairperson to go out and find new members.

Wait a minute...Dalton who has no problem with using eminent domain in St. Louis to snatch property and a business from a widow, now has no problem dressing down 75-year-old Crawford.

**First of all** the Community Relations Commission is a mayoral commission. It is up to the mayor to fill the slots on this commission.

Secretary to Dalton and City Administrator John Copeland Mary Olsen has done all the work of the commission and frankly the commission just gets in the way of her getting out newsletters.

Crawford did not ask to be the chairperson of this commission, which was troubled before Crawford's April election. Dalton stuck her on it. Meanwhile Lynn Wright is the chair to two commissions and a task force. Dalton could have easily given Crawford the Parks or Arts Commission.

**What is clear**...is that Community Relations Commission needs to be disbanded. Clearly this is a case of big unnecessary government. Daltons wants a commission with 10 people, plus a chair plus a staff member to do what the staff member is already doing fine by herself.

**Finally** one of the main purposes of the Community Relations Commission was to oversee the city newsletter. Now that Dalton has taken over the newsletter and has five to seven pages of each issue dedicated to "Mayor's column" it has been turned into a political and reelection publication of Dalton's paid for by the taxpayers.

**FATAL ACCIDENT ON MASON ROAD:** A Town and Country woman had just left after buying new tires and was headed to her home in Mason Valley when her car left the road and struck a utility pole on the west side of the road in the 2000 block of South Mason Road on Wednesday afternoon June 27.

Beverly Fabian, 62, of Foxleigh Court died at the scene. It was unknown at the time of the accident if a medical emergency might have caused her to lose control.

The accident was clearly in Town and Country but was investigated by the St. Louis County Police. The last non-interstate fatal accident in Town and Country was last fall on Clayton Road, a city street and was also investigated by the County Police. That accident was a hit and run with the driver of the at fault vehicle that crossed the center line fleeing on foot. T&C asked the County Police to handle the accident.

I asked Capt. Gary Hoelzer if T&C asked for the County to investigate this one also. Gary said that County officers arrived first at the accident scene and went ahead and worked the accident.

Frankly it is probably best to hand over fatal accident investigations to the County. While T&C might have two fatal accidents a year, the County accident reconstruction team does at least one a week or more.

Here is the history of the call and how the County cops arrived at the scene before the T&C officers.

**From:** Eckhard, Rick  
**Sent:** Friday, June 29, 2012 9:39 AM  
**To:** 'John Hoffmann'  
**Cc:** Ludwig, Bryan; McWilliams, James  
**Subject:** RE: question

The call originally came out as an accident at Manchester and Mason Road, (Unincorporated). The County Officers found the accident north of there and started to handle it. Driver was transported and later died. County Police had already begun the investigation as First Responders.

I sure hope Gary counts this in his accidents totals at end of the year despite there being no Town and Country accident report. Town and Country refuses to do much traffic enforcement on S. Mason south of Clayton despite the road being dangerous with blind curves, no shoulders and too many drivers in high performance imports speeding and talking on cell phones. IN 2009 and 2010 T&C cops issued just five traffic citations a year on this section of road.

**DEER CAR CRASHES DOWN FOR MONTH OF JUNE:** The deer versus car incidents dropped in June from eight in 2011 to six in 2012. Year to Date for 2012 is 37 and for

2011 in 38. We spent \$50,000 and killed 292 deer this winter and so far after six months it has reduced the number of car-car crashes by ONE. Without removing almost 300 deer the deer-car accident rate would have been huge.

		<b>MONTH/ DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
		<b>January</b>		
1	S	1	1928	SB 141 at Clayton Rd
2	S	5	1022	Mason and Clayton
3	S	8	0102	EB 64 W of 270
4	V	10	0219	WB 64 at Maryville
5	V	17	1946	Town and Country Lane
6	R	19	1733	Mason and Bramblewood Acres
7	S	29	0500	WB 64 at Maryville
8	V	30	2145	SB 141 S of Clayton
		<b>February</b>		
9	V	1	1217	Brighton Woods at Topping Rd
10	V	12	0559	Mason South of Clayton
11	S	20	0857	NB 141 at Ladue
12	S	26	1424	EB 64 W of Mason
13	S	26	1707	WB 64 at 141
		<b>March</b>		
14	S	1	0201	S. Outer 40 East of Mason
15	S	2	1918	Clayton and Chapel Hill Estates
16	V	7	1838	Clayton East of Mason

17	V	19	0454	NB 141 at 64
18	S	23	1431	NB 141 S of Ladue
19	S	26	2208	SB 270 N of Manchester
20	S	31	0204	NB 270 at Clayton
		<b>April</b>		
21	S	9	0659	SB 141 N of Clayton
22	S	14	1907	12300 Block of S. Outer 40
23	R	22	2254	S. Outer 40 E of Mason
24	S	26	0047	SB 141 at T & C Crossing Ramp
		<b>May</b>		
25	S	8	0322	SB 270 at Clayton
26	S	11	1924	WB 64 E of Mason
27	S	12	0806	Clayton Near Highland Pointe
28	S	21	0311	NB 141 E of 64
29	V	25	2051	EB Clayton Ramp to NB 141
30	S	30	0335	12300 Block South Outer 40
31	V	31	0115	WB 64 to SB 270
		<b>June</b>		
32	V	1	0123	Mason at EB 64
33	S	1	0818	WB 64 E of Mason
34	V	4	2154	SB 270 to WB 64
35	V	8	1014	NB 270 to WB 64
36	V	9	0219	SB 270 to WB 64



37	S	18	1154	Clayton at Topping
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**INTERESTING APPOINTMENT:** I have to wonder about Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton's thinking when making appointments. Sometimes I think the appointment is more about how the appointment can help Dalton down the road versus the person helping the city.

Nancy Avioli, the former Ward-1 Alderwoman, who was usually the smartest person in the room at most Aldermen meetings when she could find time to attend, decided not to run for reelection. She cited she was too busy at work (International Law specialist at Monsanto) often out of the country and had too many family conflicts.

So Dalton appoints her to the Clayton Road Task, a city group that she served on while an alderwoman and missed a lot of meetings. Now if she is too busy to be on the Board of Aldermen how is she going to find time for the Clayton Road Task Force?

Dalton, who is a relative newcomer to T&C having bought a foreclosed house back in 2000, is trying to have as much control in local politics as possible. Dalton who grew up in Connecticut (yep...he is a Connecticut Yankee) and his wife is from Webster Groves so he doesn't have any strong family support in T&C. Nancy Avioli is well liked and probably a good person to keep close by for the next election that is only 10 months away.

**MARIETTE PALMER FINALLY MAKES SENSE...**The Board of Alderman approved agreements with the city's three waste haulers for the city to pay for the haulers to pick up their clients yard waste in November at no charge to the residents. This is in place of the promised Branch Chipping which was even mentioned in the latest city newsletter, but which it turns out is too expensive to do. Picking up yard waste in bags has been done for years by trash haulers. The city is now doing for one month what residents can easily do.

Mariette Palmer stepped up to the mic during citizen comments and said she and her husband Dickie Palmer would be paying their trash carrier to pick up their yard waste in November and don't expect the city to do it.

"Dickie and I will pay for our own waste pick up service and the city doesn't have to," said Palmer.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAIR ACTIVELY KILLING TREES:** At the end of the work session former mayor and current aldermen Skip Mange, lived up to his anti-green reputation, **BESIDES WANTING TO PAVE PART OF LONGVIEW PARK** for more parking, he pointed out full binders in front of each alderperson. Manage went on to say how each binder contained a copy of every city newsletter ever printed and copies of the former Town Crier publication. The Town Crier was an independent publication with an editorial slant. Why it was included is beyond me. I think Skip should have included a copy of each of my newsletters if he was going to include the Crier.

Really if Skip wanted everyone to have this material, why didn't he simply put it on PDF files and email it to them?

**ALMOST A REPEAT OF 2011** The first board of aldermen meeting of July 2011 was cancelled well in advance because more than half the board was out of town on vacation. On Monday night they were one away from not having a quorum when Fred Meyland-Smith, Lynn Wright and Phil Behnen were no shows.

**CONVICTED DOCTOR WITH \$1m FINE HAS RENTAL PROPERTY FOR SALE:** Our newest member of the Gangs of Town and Country, Dr. Abid Nasir, who recently was convicted for importing and using unapproved cancer drugs, maybe is trying to raise funds. Nasir, received a one-year probation sentence, but part of the terms of probation included Nasir repaying the government \$1,000,336 for overcharging Medicare for the unapproved drugs.

Nasir lives in what I describe as a very attractive Marriott Hotel on Thornhill Drive. Besides his 12,000 square foot house Nisar also has three rental houses along Thornhill Drive.



Shortly after the sentencing a large sign appeared in the yard of the house On Thornhill at Woodmark Drive announcing for sale the lot and new house to be built by Micelli Builders. The sign has since fallen down in the yard.



This is one of three of Nisar's rental properties in Thornhill Estates. The Micelli Construction sign is lying in the front yard.

Nisar, whose medical degree is from the University of Karachi, still has his license to practice in Missouri, but had his license pulled in Illinois where he had two offices after his guilty plea.

**FIRE STATION MOVED DELAYED DUE TO MOLD:** Yep...the mold was in the trailers the city was going to lease as living quarters for firefighters/paramedics while the fire trucks and ambulance are housed at the old Highway Patrol building on S. Mason at I-64.

Here is an email from Public Works director Craig Wilde that explains why the fire station was not vacated on June 15 as originally announced for the extensive remodeling.

**From:** Wilde, Craig [mailto:WildeCJ@town-and-country.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:00 AM  
**To:** John Hoffmann  
**Subject:** RE: question

John,

We had some delays in getting the trailers from the vendor. There have been several issues that we have worked through, but the most notable is that the units originally allocated to us were found to have a mold infestation once they got into fabrication. Since they did not have another set of units with the same configuration, the original layout needed to be re-evaluated and approved by the fire district. This combined with a change in personnel at the vendor have put us about 3 ½ weeks behind on their receipt. The first set of trailers should be ready for delivery in the next couple of days while we expect the last set to be here late this week or early next. For now, it has not had an impact on the project schedule as we are doing some of the peripheral work as well as waiting on various long lead time items.

Craig J. Wilde, P.E.  
Director of Public Works  
City of Town and Country, MO

**CLAYTON ROAD TRAIL WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE**...Originally when plans were made for the Clayton Road Trail (wide sidewalk) the second section (from Topping to Bopp) was suppose to start in April of 2012 and be completed in the fall of 2012. That has not happened.

I was told the earliest this project would start is the fall of 2012. I have my doubts and think it may not start until 2013.

**GET WELL SOON!** After my deer related injuries (broken shoulder and arm when rushing to quiet down a dog barking about deer in the yard...actual cause slip on throw rug and a fall) I received two get well cards and a number of emails. One card showed up with a return address and everything...it was actually from a city official.

The second card arrived without a return address. It was thick and cost two stamps to mail. I made my wife leave the room while I opened it in case it exploded. If she joined me on the "injured list" from a letter bomb there would be no one left to take care of either one of us.

I then opened the Hallmark singing card to hear James Brown singing "I got You" also known as "I Feel Good." Here is the note inside:

"Dear John

Very sorry to hear about your accident. Since your accident my lobbying practice has been taking a big hit. I need you and the great PR. Just remember to spell my name correctly. It's Jon, not John."

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for both of our sakes.

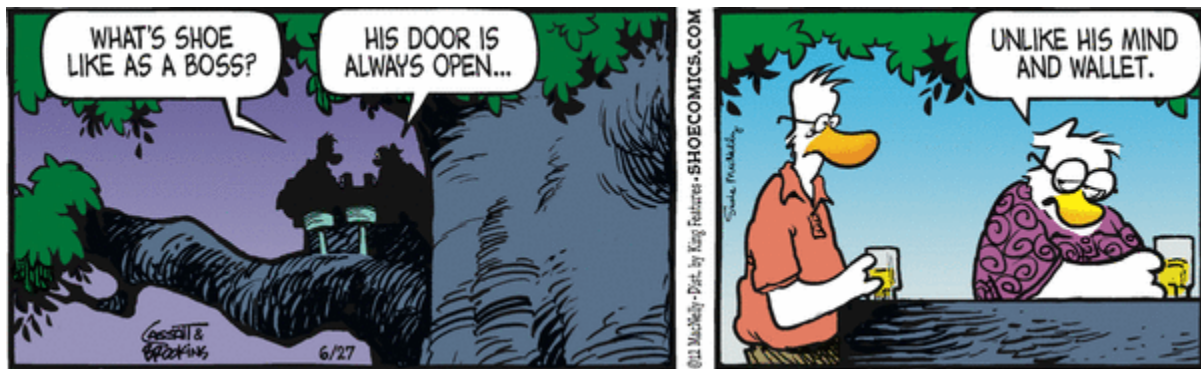
Yours in T&C,

The Hon Jon Dalton

P.S. When you're up to it, let me know and I'll drop by your house for a photo-op. You can be on my right and Diana can be on my left or vice versa – whichever you prefer.”

I doubt the card is really from Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Dalton since it was not mailed in a T&C envelope...such an official message would normally have postage paid by the taxpayer...just like the Mayor's campaign literature know as the city newsletter.

### CARTOONS:



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FROM CHARLOTTE PETERS' KID

