

## Theresa Rice

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**From:** Roz Lassoff on behalf of Council  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2012 8:07 AM  
**To:** Theresa Rice  
**Subject:** FW: The SMP - is there anything else???

*Roz Lassoff*  
Rosalind D. Lassoff, City Clerk  
City of Bainbridge Island  
280 Madison Avenue North  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
(206) 780-8624

**C.O.B.I.**

JUL 03 2012

**RECEIVED PCD**

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**From:** Sylvia Nelson [mailto:shn1@ix.netcom.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 02, 2012 10:58 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** The SMP - is there anything else???

I have worked for 32 years with elected officials from four counties and cities within Puget Sound, and their staff. I have loved and/or respected most of them. There are always a few who are just "not with the program." One of those was "let go" by a city manager I knew and respected, as did the rest of the region. That person was subsequently hired to be the planning director for the new city of Bainbridge Island. That person had also been "let go" by the director of a planning department who ended up becoming my boss.

So begins the history of planning within the City of Bainbridge Island (COBI)!!! There were hires who had no planning background. There were hires who were "laughed at" by the rest of the entire region. You cannot imagine the giggles I heard from planning directors around the region, who I knew very well and who knew me well enough to laugh about our planning department to me. That was sad...I came to this Island in 1965 and loved it enough to move here and raise my family here and remain here in retirement, even though I could be with my son and granddaughters in Colorado and breathe all that smoky air! (I do love those little girls and really would like to be closer to them in order to watch them grow up.)

But, I love this Island. I have always loved this Island. As a child in the late 40's I was a Brownie (my mother was our troop leader. We were recycling way back then. My mother was the person who got recycling started in the Chicago area. (She could do that as the wife of an elected official in Cook County.) I was involved in writing a grant to create a day care center for children of migrant workers from Canada--people who worked picking berries here on the Island. We set up a school for these children, which became a coop pre-school for children on this Island.

Anyway, you now know I grew up and have lived or worked with elected officials for my entire live, except for the five years I spent working in the "private sector" and the seven years I worked as a professional mom here on Bainbridge Island. During that time I got to know a whole lot of (mainly women but also a whole lot of cheating husbands) folks on this Island. We were mostly hippies at that time! Or, people you would call free-thinkers.... A whole lot of those people are still active today, hopefully not still using drugs! I can't tell when I watch them testify....

I also know that at least one of the experts that you are listening to was "let go" by one of our major jurisdictions in the PSRC. Maybe he does not know that some of us out here know particulars, but we do. And, you should consider your sources. You have so many others to learn from.

What I heard from folks speaking tonight ( July 2) was not what some of your late speakers said - the early speakers were not bringing up "property rights," "property values," the likely scenario that the COBI would be sued out of cityhood, etc. Those may have been implied, but not mentioned. They spoke of not finding reliable science, and we know that is highly disputed, and a whole lot of other consequences. You cannot imagine who could be called in to make the point of whoever wants a point made!!! The primary science is that the homeowners are not the creators of degradation of Puget Sound! I believe you are all smart enough to know that.

I am just saying, that, as a waterfront homeowner who has spent 45 years working on this property, making it enhance the waterfront, make my family safe, creating a desirable living space, growing the gardens my grandfather, born in Wales, taught me to grow (including food enough to sustain me and some of my neighbors for quite a while), making sure my drain field was compliant, making sure all my plumbing, wiring, etc., was compliant, why do you want to make things difficult for me? I will be 70 years old this summer. Someday I will have to sell this property and move on, or pass it on to my son. Why should I, or he, take the hit your staff is proposing as a nonconforming property worth almost nothing?

There is absolutely no reason for the City of Bainbridge Island to make ANY PROPERTY existing on Bainbridge Island "non conforming." Those of us here before incorporation complied with Kitsap County regulations; those of us after incorporation complied to COBI regulations. Therefore, we are ALL conforming!!! If you want to reconsider these designation you need to go to court! My suggestion is that you declare we are all conforming...we will continue as such. If someone wants to develop a new property that person will have to comply with all your new regulations. It should just be so simple!!! Why make it so hard? I know, staff members of any jurisdiction want to create job security, but that is not what is this about. We do not need people creating jobs to regulate things that are already being conformed to!!! One person could be checking out what is being done - aren't there always folks who will report on their neighbor's activities?

By the way, I was on the Boundary Review Board when the city became a City! I held out for all-Island incorporation, which is and was the law, in spite of what the early "requesters" wanted. I'm not uninformed in spite of the fact that I do not show up publicly and participate in your unfortunate airing! If I should and if it would actually make a difference, let me know and I will.

Sincerely,

Sylvia H. Nelson  
9605 Olympus Beach Road