



Neil Girrard <neilgirrard@gmail.com>

July 18, LHB meeting

Neil Girrard <neilgirrard@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 17, 2018 at 10:34 PM

To: ntaylor@lincolncountynm.gov

Cc: willastone@hotmail.com, lphillips@lincolncountynm.gov, katharinemarsh@hotmail.com

July 16, 2018

Dear Nita Taylor and the Lincoln Historical Board,

We would have preferred to have sent an attorney to read this to the board but we can't afford one of those as so many of the historicals can. We therefore submit the following statements regarding Smith's statements about burning down our house and we request that it be read into the record for this matter:

We will not voluntarily stand before the historical board regarding this matter or any other. The ordinance does not require us to. We have endured 19 years of oppression because of the existence of this board and we will not submit ourselves again to its un-American, anti-democratic and un-neighborly treatment. We are not on trial – L.M. Smith is – and we will not be present to be used as a distraction from that fact. In truth, the board is also on trial as it now faces the choice of embracing complicity with, or repudiation of, Smith's statements as well as his status as chairman and member of the board. Of course, any individual board members who want to have no part of this mess can simply get up and walk out the door now. You will be doing yourself and your community a good service by doing so. We do not even see how the board is capable of "resolving" this issue in any way that would be consistent with the facts or that would be beneficial to us. But if the board finds something constructive to say or do here, it can write us a letter.

L.M. Smith should certainly be recused from any board discussion or decision regarding this matter because it is his statements that have brought this matter to where it is now. We must also object to Winston Moore being a part of any board decision or discussion of this matter and he should be recused because of the recent personal conflict that has occurred between us and him as a result of these issues. Neither of these two board members are able to be fair, impartial and objective about this matter.

If only the January tape of Smith's first statement is presented as "evidence," then this meeting is the farce and façade we suspect that it is going to be. It is in his repeating and defending his statement (that our house would look better if it burned down as he said it again at the May meeting) that is the real and serious offense. It is not possible to rightly excuse away Smith's statements as some isolated, quirky remark because he willfully chose to repeat and defend his statements. Any public official sick enough to say such a thing and then to defend his stupidity while still in his official capacity is all too likely to be sick enough to actually do what he has said. Smith's statements simply cannot be summarily dismissed as not being a personal threat issued while on County business – the implied threat is plainly visible to all who are not predisposed to justifying the power enjoyed by the historical party.

If both the January and the May tapes are presented and the board is then unwilling or unable to remove Smith from the board, we will again submit this issue to the County Commission because we believe this matter should have been redressed there in the first place. How can this be a fair trial of Smith's actions if he still acts as the board's chairman? That's a no-brainer! The Commissioners appoint the board members – they should remove them as well. Otherwise the residents of the historical districts have no protection from the board whatsoever. Further, was not Reginald Richey recently removed from the board? Why can't Smith be similarly dismissed?

The facts speak for themselves. In January, while acting as a County official, L.M. Smith issued an implied threat of our home being burnt down. In May, he repeated and defended that implied threat. Let the board – if it can or will – do what is right regarding Smith. Or not. There are people watching to see what the outcome of this situation will be. In the meantime, we continue to stand in objection to the existence of the board over Zone B because it is unjust, immoral and evil in its scope.

Sincerely,

Neil & Cindy Girrard
Soviet Lincoln

cc: Preston Stone, Code Enforcement (Linda Phillips), Katherine Marsh (LHB member)

