

THERE'S A BULLY ON THE PLAYGROUND AND HE WANTS YOUR LUNCH!

After five years of discussion, debate, and creating divisiveness in OPA, opponents to the plan for Ridgeline Equestrian Estates finally revealed their true game plan for the property.

In a short Planning Commission public hearing conducted on May 17 and dominated by those OPA residents who spoke passionately and eloquently in support of the Ridgeline plan, the facts were finally provided to counter the fiction. In return, those opposing the plan for Ridgeline were forced to show their cards and divulge what they really want. The big play is to pressure the City of Orange to:

- Seize all 52 acres of the Ridgeline property
- Force the City Council to (remember, three seats on the Council are open this November) enact the power of eminent domain,
- Strip OPA resident John Martin of his private property rights and
- Tax the citizens of Orange millions of dollars to provide “just compensation” for taking this private property, then
- Clear the property, pave it, create parking stalls, install lights, restrooms, snack stands and other facilities to create, among other ideas, a soccer tournament and practice area or other free public athletic/recreational facility at Ridgeline that would attract people by the thousands, and
- OPEN IT TO ALL RESIDENTS OF ORANGE and the rest of the county

We get it. Orange lacks park space. Still, we find it hard to believe that, in lieu of the custom estates, new trails, open space and arena planned for Ridgeline, some folks in OPA would actually prefer the increased traffic on Meads, noise, lights, and other problems created by outsiders driving to the new City of Orange Ridgeline Public Park and Sports Fields. Yet, their comments about their big play are now part of the public record. And, the private property power grab is in motion – on your taxpaying dime!

And, sadly, those leading the charge are not above using intimidation, bullying and other scare tactics to get their way – just ask the Ridgeline supporters who spoke last night.

GOOD NEWS – SUPPORT FOR RIDGELINE IS GROWING!

Despite a flurry of emails from Sierra Club activist and OPA Real Estate Committee member Theresa Sears begging all sorts of outside groups to attend last night's hearing, Ridgeline opposition was half the size it was during the first public hearing, We think it's because the truth and facts are finally getting out and people understand what you and the Planning Commissioners already know: the Ridgeline property is already designated for Low Density (one-acre) and Recreation/ Open Space, Ridgeline is private property and NOT public open space or a public park, the OPA Plan is already part of the City's General Plan AND OPA taxpayers are not willing to fund a new park purchase that would negatively impact the quality of their lives.

The final Planning Commission hearing is slated for JUNE 7 at 7:00pm.

Join the hundreds of people who support Ridgeline to fight against a new tax to build a big city park in your neighborhood. Reclaim what OPA used to be – a true equestrian community united – peaceful – and unique to the people who call it home. Thank you for your support!