

“Opinion”

Pima County bureaucrats have tried for generations to get rid of the racetrack. They have convinced the Tucson Soccer Academy (TSA) and their supporters to step forward and act on the bureaucrats behalf. TSA has told the local soccer community “support us, and we will quickly have an 18 field tournament site for the Fort Lowell Shootout and other tournaments in the future.” What has gone unsaid, is that TSA and/or it’s associates make money now and certainly plan to make more money in the future if they are successful. In the process they have forgotten the rest of the soccer community and selfishly planned only for their own benefit. They also forgot the 62% of the voters who approved the Racetrack Initiative and the 9300 people who attended the last day of horse racing on February 24th.

In addition, TSA pleads for special treatment for the Catalina Foothills kids and simply forgets that there are needs for soccer fields throughout our community. The TSA approach would provide nine new soccer fields as there are already eight fields at Rillito, with a ninth under construction. The Marana or I-10 sites would provide 18 new fields with far better access for the community. I asked the Estes Co. to donate the land south of the Pegler wash to Pima County. That became the Dan Felix park. It is my understanding that AYSO donated some \$79,000 for improvements there. I understand that AYSO is comprised of volunteers.

Before October of 2007 TSA may have used government owned property for business purposes. In October they formed a non-profit corporation. There are certain facts that the public, media, committee members and elected officials should request from TSA so that they can be publicly reviewed and discussed. Just because they have recently become a non-profit corporation does not prevent their employees and others from receiving large amounts of money. Remember, the New York stock exchange was a non-profit corporation but Grasso was paid millions. TSA should disclose the following information:

1. The public needs to know if TSA was a profit making group before their October non-profit incorporation.
2. TSA should provide their books and records for that time period before October of 2007.
3. TSA should provide their books and records since they have incorporated as a non-profit corporation.
4. A list of all their paid customers should be provided for the last five years that they have been in operation so that they can be cross-checked for any relationship to government officials, committee members and their relatives.

We are sure that TSA is an honest and public-spirited corporation. They should have nothing to hide and happily provide this information.

We need to point out that the political “fix” is in. We think this has been engineered by the bureaucrats, not the elected officials. How do you view the following situation? One individual, Gary Davidson, is chairman of the Rillito Park advisory board, Chairman of the Pima County Bond Commission sub-committee dealing with the Rillito Racetrack and is the Chairman of the Pima County Parks Commission. He has been relentless in his attacks on the Rillito Racetrack, horse racing and history. He has been vocal in his support of tearing down the Historic structure and building soccer fields. He has not hidden his bias at the various meetings he has chaired.

We would ask that the soccer community join with the rest of the community to support soccer, horse racing and other sports, as together we think a lot of things can be accomplished. A short history of the Rillito Racetrack since 1981 will be available shortly. It will include the

\$32,000,000 scandal that the Rillito Racetrack was a part of and various improper actions by former bureaucrats and elected officials. We will also cite the humorous actions by the generations of bureaucrats in their attempts to destroy the Rillito Racetrack. Piously disclosed fake costs and continual threats of condemnation of the property owned by Pima County since 1971. You will note that little, if any money has been spent on repair and maintenance of the Historic structure. They always include insurance money spent as a cost to the County. To anyone who has any knowledge about the self-insurance program within Pima County, which is set up for these purposes, it is amusing.

I would also point out to the members of the Pima County Bond Committee that a memo given to them on March 27th stated that the Rillito Racetrack Advisory Committee recommend that horse racing stay at Rillito only until 2010. The individual who wrote that was misinformed. The committee recommended that horse racing stay at the Rillito Racetrack until a new racetrack is built. The committee also recommended that such a new track be built by 2010. No sane individual would build a multi-million dollar racetrack when Historic Rillito Racetrack already exists. The committee did not discuss in any depth the Historic implications and possibilities of full time community use of the grandstand.

Everything on these pages is my opinion,

Ed Moore, former Pima County Supervisor