



Coral's the clear choice for developing Solon

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Solon Herald Sun

To the editor:

This is not about bias. It is about facts.

More than a year ago, city leaders began discussions with Peter Rubin, of Coral Company. They asked him to transform Solon into a 21st century city that would be the impetus for an affluent business and residential evolution.

They asked Rubin to build a grand corridor to the city and a life style center, with a full service hotel and full size department stores. They asked him to make the street view lush and green, with spacious social areas.

And they asked him to build this all within the confines of the city master plan, pulling it together with government, historic and arts buildings, to create continuity with the city's present business development.

They demanded that he expand his development plan to encompass residential and business properties between Solon and Bainbridge roads and south of the city property behind Sharon Dale. And they asked him to do it all at no cost to the city. To all of this, Rubin said OK.

Then officials said to Rubin, we have a few existing problems that we would like you to resolve in the process. They said we have a traffic flow problem at the 422-SOM-Road intersection, and the area between Solon Road and Bainbridge Road, west of Liberty, has a residential ground water problem.

Further, we have a complaint about Aurora Road traffic using Liberty Road and Bainbridge Road as a cut-thru to bypass the 43 and 91 traffic intersection, and finally, residences that back up to the freeway have been asking for sound barriers for years.

To all of this, Rubin said no problem, "I'll create a new freeway ramp system to redirect the old and new traffic flow off SOM, and I'll buy the University Hospital property and turn it into a giant water basin to help out drainage problems, then I'll build a connecting road from Aurora Road to Solon Road directly onto a new freeway ramp to handle the cut-thru traffic.

"And in the process of making the freeway changes, I'll be happy to install noise barriers. Further, I'll even move historic buildings to straighten out the elbow on Bainbridge Road and create larger civic and arts properties. And, I am more than amiable to go forward under the terms of the PDP Agreement that will give city council complete authority over every aspect of my development process."

Rubin has complied with all stipulations, he has agreed to everything that he has been asked for and offered even more.

Now comes Bob Stark, uninvited and late to the party. He has done none of the time or expense and is offering none of the above.

Stark has been evasive, double talking, deceptive, and confrontational, with a constant refrain of "first choose me, then I'll tell you what I am going to do." As far as financing the development, he says, "choose me, then I'll go looking for the financial backing."

Mayor Kevin Patton and the council stipulated that before being chosen, the developer must demonstrate

that he has all of the involved property in his control, and verify that he has the financing to complete the development plan, and within a specified time frame.

Stark has been leaning on his experience with Crocker Park, yet we know that his total project time constraint there has expired and he has not yet even finished phase one.

Take a real look at the Stark development proposal. It is nothing more than a crowded business office/residential park, with a centerpiece of apartment buildings and parking lots. It does offer some specialty retail and restaurants along with a movie theater and bowling alley, but in the overview, these are nothing more than lipstick on a pig.

The street view of the proposed Stark development is that of a congested concrete money-mill. I am at a total loss to understand the indecision in this matter.

As stated by Scott, residents are looking to city leaders to be the most informed and unbiased in choosing the development that is truly in our best interests.

Solon is being given an incredible opportunity to transform itself. It will be the legacy of this city council. What happened to our vision of the future Solon?

Linda E. Reed

Solon

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