

Truth & Openness

Keeping you updated on the issues facing the city.

Truth and Openness Always Win in the End

The **Concerned Citizens for Crystal City** group has spent over a year pushing for openness and protections for the safety of the public and for the protection of the citizens by spending countless, voluntary hours monitoring all city business and proposed smelter activity.

Last year at this time, it was discovered that Crystal City officials had been meeting for **over 18 months IN SECRET** to bring a pig iron smelter to our town.

We can't imagine this ever happening. However, it was our intention to shed light on the actions of city officials and to make sure that the citizens, who had been deliberately kept out of the process, were the ones being represented openly. We also wanted to stop the city from continuing to provide blind support for the developer - in secret.

THE TRUTH IS...A LOT HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS OF CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR CRYSTAL CITY

Last April new council members were elected throughout the city. They were all committed to openness in government and responsible and inclusive decision making that included public input. This has happened although there are still many council votes that end in a tie, pitting the old members against the newly elected members.

Here are the major things that have happened in just this last year:

- The new city council members made an attempt to **reverse the rezoning of one-third of the city from recreational to industrial**. Unlike the previous council, they made sure that people were properly notified and that a public hearing was held. Some additional corrections were made and the new council made sure that citizens had a chance to be heard. The reversal of the rezoning failed because of the dissenting votes of the old council members and a pending lawsuit was filed by city residents.
- The original lease that was agreed to by the previous council was amended to **protect the school district's funding** and **required the developer to pay all attorney fees** related to litigation revolving around the secret meetings. The amended lease also **required the developer to pay the city for any iron products shipped** from the city owned property. These were all as a result of input from concerned citizens after they read the original lease when it became public.
- The State Auditor is now looking over city practices, policies and procedures (both past and present) as a result of the citizens in the community petitioning her office last year. All citizens look forward to this report to make sure **our tax dollars are spent efficiently, honestly and in our best interests**.
- The smelter developer, who was opposed to any **union workers** on his project, has now changed his attitude and his position, thanks to the efforts and questioning of the concerned citizens.



BUT THERE IS MORE TO DO

Continued on back

The concerned citizens pushed hard at public forums and through research efforts, information gathering, and correspondence for the following safeguards:

- Prevention of any processing of **lead** on the smelter property to protect the town.
- Requiring periodic, independent **emission and soil testing** to protect the citizens.
- Establishing **buffer zones** to protect the citizens.
- There can be **no burning of coal** in furnaces at the smelter.
- Any **barge** facility (if built) can be **used only by the developer**.
- **Sound requirements** revolving around the smelter operation to protect the tranquility of the citizens.
- **Light requirements** revolving around the smelter to protect the citizens.
- **Limiting any truck traffic** on city streets to protect the citizens.
- Requiring an **emergency disaster plan** to protect the citizens and the workers.
- Requiring that all state and federal **permits** are acquired **prior to the start of construction**, with final approval remaining with the council.
- There can be **no scrap iron processing** allowed at the smelter to protect the citizens.
- Any **stacks** that come out of the smelter have to be **limited in height**.
- **Only full trains** can move through town to limit traffic to protect the citizens.
- All **workers must park on the property** not on city streets to protect the citizens.
- Installation of new **decorative fencing** and new **landscaping** to protect the citizens who live near the smelter.

These conditions have all been added to the permitting process as of this printing.

BUT THERE IS MORE TO DO

Does anyone think that these safeguards would have even been discussed, much less adopted, if the citizens did not take the time to speak up? Does anyone think that these safeguards would be discussed if there were not new council members opposed to the **SECRET** deal done by previous council members that gave the developer free reign?

Thank you citizens and thank you new council members! But there is still more to do!

Questions still need to be asked about slag piles and dust control, some guarantee of local employment for our citizens, no use of eminent domain, final approval of the site plan that includes all of the conditions above, and a guarantee that no tax incentives for the developer that would impact our schools, police and fire services, and other city services are allowed.

As you can see, citizen input and open government **can** make a difference.



Remember we are still dealing with a developer who has acted in **SECRET**, continues to act in secret, and who probably has a different goal than the city's goal. So there needs to be **vigilance**.

Let there be no mistake, **we are still opposed to this secret smelter deal** and we don't believe that it will happen. But we need to protect our citizens so that, if this pig does come to town, it at least can be corralled and have some perfume on it.

There is an election coming up in a few more weeks. This time the other half of the old council is up for election and you will once again decide what you want for our town. Crystal City is at a crossroads, but many changes have taken place because of citizens who care. Citizen's protections vs. developer's bottom line.

Secrecy in government vs. openness and citizen input. **The truth always wins out in the end!**

A Better Future...Our Children Deserve It!

We are trying to keep the public updated as to what is going on in our city, but it is expensive with attorney's fees and flyers. If you should wish to contribute to the fight for open and honest government you may contribute online or at:

Concerned Citizens for Crystal City www.clearpillar.com
P.O. Box 584 636.931.0407
Crystal City, MO 63019 314.541.6983