

10/3/21

To be read for Public Comments on agenda item O-5 Discussion on Crossing Guard Sentry Box located on the corner of Wildwood and Center:

We wanted to make sure the public record for this agenda item included the history of why that crossing guard sentry box was installed at that location without a proper foundation and unclear ownership.

Around 2004, we were forced to fight the city and Redwood Community Action Agency over their administration of the CDBG First-Time Homebuyers program after we had bought a fixer-upper in Rio Dell. The series of events and the battle over trying to get the foundation to the house and structure beams repaired is well documented at our web-site, www.riodelltimes.com. During the dispute, RCAA's project manager Larry Miller, their designated contractor Joe Buccola, the city and their building inspector Arnie Kemp were attempting to force cosmetic only repairs to our house despite extensive known structural failures. As part of that cosmetic work, they purchased a supply of Hardi-plank siding with the intent of covering the original redwood shiplap siding on the house – one of the few nice features of this house at that time. We resisted and the Hardi-plank was returned.

That Hardi-plank was then used to build the Crossing Guard Sentry Box – not as a safety feature for the crossing guard but as a city sanctioned “screw you” to our family and anyone else complaining about misappropriation of funds. Then building inspector Arnie Kemp and others constructed the shelter, apparently without a proper concrete foundation which is ironic considering the fact that Mr. Kemp ignored the failing foundation and structure beams on our home in the first place.

The ownership of the shelter is in question, according to the agenda item, because at that time those connected with city hall didn't need to bother with things like ownership or permits. The gool ol' boys ran the city and did whatever they liked without fear of any repercussions. A few things have changed for the better since then, thankfully. It is important to recognize the history and record it for future generations in order to learn from the past. The shelter was never designed and built as a safety feature for a crossing guard and it should be removed entirely at this point.

Perhaps the people that put it there in the first place, without ownership or permits, should be asked to contribute to the costs of repair or removal.

Thank you,

Steve and Sharon Wolff