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KONOCTI fearmongering

1 message

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To: GS-N-MAC BGNEXEC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Cc: Citizensforhealing Info <info@citizensforhealing.org>

Thu, May 9, 2024 at 12:18 AM

I am the proponent for the name change of Kelseyville to Konocti. Things are heating up in my community, fueled in a great part by the Kelseyville Business Association (KBA). Now, the local school board has come under fire from the KBA for attempting to pass a Land Acknowledgement Resolution.

Below you will find a letter to the editor of Lake County News regarding an article published on May 8th, 2024 about a Special Meeting of the Kelseyville Unified School District. The article can be found at <https://lakeconews.com/news/78608-kelseyville-unified-hears-from-community-about-land-acknowledgement-indigenous-peoples-resolution>

Mark Borghesani come in at 34:30 of the video.

FYI: Citizens for Healing has started the tabling weekly to give people a place to talk about the name change. We have been doing these public events, off and on, for over 3 and 1/2 years.

Thank you for taking the time to read the letter below.

Sincerely,

Lorna Sides

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your detailed article and video from last night's Special Meeting of the Kelseyville Unified School District. I suggest people who are interested in the health and well being of the Kelseyville/Konocti community read the article and watch the video.

The Save the Name Committee has been distributing signs to businesses and individuals in my community. The signs read "Save Kelseyville." Fearmongering!

There is nothing to fear. Our town will be fine. It's just a name change... an upgrade! You can read more about the proposed name change at citizensforhealing.org

Save the Name (SNC) is a committee of the Kelseyville Business Association (KBA). Mark Borghesani, owner of Kelseyville Lumber, is the committee chairperson. Early on in the citizens input part of the meeting last night, Borghesani spoke noting, "Somehow C4H knew about and ended up at that meeting." I assume he was talking about the KVUSD Board Meeting held on April 23rd of this year. C4H is in reference to Citizens for Healing.

So, somehow, it was OK for Save the Name Committee to know about the Land Acknowledgement Resolution and the meeting. It was OK for them to show up and bring ~50 supporters with the intention of harassing the Board into dropping the Resolution, but it was not OK for Citizens for Healing and their supporters to be there to speak in favor of the Resolution.

Citizens for Healing has many members and supporters that live in the KVUSD. Some have children who attend, or once attended, school in the District. Some supporters of the name change have attended KVUSD schools themselves. They had a

full right to know about the Resolution. I am not sure how this was an issue of the KBA.

Borghesani also implied last night that it is OK for the KBA to influence the Board, but not OK for Citizens for Healing to have any sway on the Board.

In today's paper, you wrote, "The resolution and name change have become so conflated that Winer said board members were getting emails from people imploring them not to change the town's name...." So, it seems KVUSD Board has been getting harassed by SNC and their supporters for weeks.

Fearmongering!

Your newspaper quoted Mr. Winer as saying that the community is right to fear the Board on Geographic Names. "Who knows who these people are." This is just more fearmongering!

From Wikipedia, "The **United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN)** is a [federal](#) body operating under the [United States Secretary of the Interior](#). The purpose of the board is to establish and maintain uniform usage of [geographic](#) names throughout the [federal government of the United States](#).

The USBGN is also tasked with removing names that are offensive and derogatory.

At some point, the USBGN will make a decision in the case of changing the name of my community. I have every reason to believe that they will decide in favor of removing the name of Kelseyville from the town since it is offensive to many people, of all races. That is one of the jobs the USBGN tasked to do... to see to it that offensive names are removed from within the US borders.

There is not an argument that can be offered, be it cost or sentiment, that is more important than stopping the ongoing insult that is carried in the name Kelseyville. The use of the name fosters the ongoing dehumanization and degradation of the descendants of the people who were enslaved, raped, starved and murdered by Andrew Kelsey. I will do whatever I can to remove this travesty from our community.

I will rejoice when Andrew Kelsey's name no longer hangs like an EVIL cloud over my community.

Citizens for Healing will be tabling in Library Park in Lakeport on Tuesdays, starting around noon. They will be setting up in the shade of the large redwood at the north end of the park. All are welcome to drop by.

Embrace Konocti.

Lorna Sides
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