

IF IT STINKS LIKE A DUCK

by

Mark R. Adelman

If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck.....

Full disclosure: I'm the Webmaster for the Stop Costco Gas Coalition. You can read my blog on this at our website: www.stopcostcogas.org

Up until about a month ago I was a happily retired academician and civic activist. Then my wife asked me to be the Webmaster for SCGC and I agreed: BIG MISTAKE!

But maybe some other folks have been making a series of bigger mistakes.

If you have not been following this thread, here's the quick version. Costco wants to build a mega gas station at Westfield Wheaton Plaza (WWP) and citizens have been fighting it for almost three years (see the website for WAY too much detail).

Costco was forced to withdraw a previous application for a Special Exception and has been promising to file a new one (with all the justification documents), by October. The citizens have been waiting, and waiting, and waiting. Costco just filed (almost one month late). Or so we've been told. All we can get is statements that a new SE application number (S-2863) has been assigned and the papers should be available "any day now".

Oh, and that the hearings scheduled for the old application (March 2013) will do just dandy for the new application: the Board of Appeals calendar is really booked up and there's no need to slide the hearings into April, or May, or June. Unfortunate coincidence, but citizens will just have to jump up from the Thanksgiving table, drop plans for Holiday shopping, and run around like chickens with (well you know), trying to get/read all the new paperwork.

I can hear chortling sounds from various corporate offices, even as I write this with my flamethrower.

Now anyone who knows me will tell you that I pay very little attention to conspiracy theories. But maybe I can try one out.....

It could involve the usual cast of characters. But the County Executive and the County Council could not be involved in something like this. WWP? Nah! Costco? Such a good business model? Nah?

Well, I'm totally stumped. Guess there's no conspiracy; not even collusion.....

Now the rational solution to this is that the hearings get scheduled for June. And I admit that maybe I misinterpreted what I (and others?) was told on the phone by an overworked County employee. That would be a nice solution.

In the meantime, we won't be shopping at WWP on Black Friday. I hear the smell of

rotten duck is rather strong.

And maybe we'll do the holiday shopping elsewhere too. Lots of our friends were hoping to shop at Costco, until the opening of the wonderful new store was delayed due to 'unspecified construction problems'. Someone told me it was serious cracks in the floors, but who am I to give credence to rumors?

By the way, where are YOU planning to do your shopping?

MRA, 11/20/12