

Where has civility gone in the debate?

It seems the topic of the moment is Ponte Vista and all things attached to it. What I have not heard, or read, is a single word about the atrocious manner in which people are acting at meetings.

The opponents of Ponte Vista cite the "character of our community" as one of their reasons for opposition to the project. With what I've witnessed, we should welcome Ponte Vista and any other development because the "character" that has been displayed by some of my own neighbors makes me ashamed to admit I live in San Pedro.

The R1 -- R Neighborhoods Are 1 -- proponents and their gang somehow think being rude is acceptable. They get up and insult people and make ridiculous statements -- basically anything they can think of to assassinate the reputations of the developer and any of his supporters. Then they smile like the cat who ate the canary. Meanwhile, supporters of Ponte Vista sit quietly and politely, and let them have their say.

But God help anyone who gets up and has anything good to say about Ponte Vista or the developer, Bob Bisno. They can barely be heard over the hoots and hollers from the R1 gang. They are insulting, abusive and rude. My take is that they are attempting to intimidate supporters from speaking. The only thing they could do worse than the insults they hurl is to start heaving fruits and vegetables. But then there are still a couple of more months of meetings left, so we just might see this also. I would not be surprised.

The R1 gang does this against people who are being polite, not insulting anyone, and merely expressing their opinions. Their targets are people who are their neighbors.

What type of "community" is this? Wow, this certainly demonstrates how friendly San Pedro is and what a nice place it would be to live. Just the type of values I would like my kids to learn. It's the kind of behavior seen on TV during NBA games where a spectator hurls taunts, then a cup of beer and ice at a player. The player then jumps into the stands and a free-for-all ensues. Thank goodness Ponte Vista supporters have more self-restraint.

It is inconceivable this happens at an open-forum community meeting. It is unbelievable that the chairman (John Greenwood) doesn't do anything about it. But it's a well-known fact he is an R1 sympathizer. At least Victor Griego, the independent moderator, should step in. But he doesn't. No one does.

The R1 gang is acting like a bunch of hooligans, thugs and bullies. Plain and simple.

Shame on them, and shame on the people who allow them to get away with it.

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