

Judy,

Shame on you for your failure of leadership and you leave me with no choice other than to publicly advise and warn Oakland about the Conservancy.

As previously advised, my work at the VAH is now fully concluded albeit that the door, entrance and masonry repair remain unfinished. The Conservancy will have to complete the job particularly since the raw, exposed original wood is now subject to rot and decay. This situation is due to your decision to deny me unfettered access to complete the work and you had the authority to do so. I simply refused to dance to your tune and schedule. And as previously noted, I am insulted by the prospect of a babysitter and/or security monitor. I'm done.

I will add that working with you on this simple project has been made miserable by your penchant for absolute control and consistent indecision. Said another way, the failure your leadership is of biblical proportions. While you are very good at the ultra macro level, you fail miserably at managing the details and enabled delegation at least as it relates to the VAH. Additionally, you have managed to alienate many people who, if properly led and motivated, could enormously enhance the VAH project. Further, the VAH project, and even simple little things, have unnecessarily become a bureaucratic morass and nightmare.

Parenthetically, had you granted me temporary, unfettered access, that would be the exercising of control and authority as is making a decision to permit the rehab of the window trim. But you do not appear to realize that. Rather, it's your way or no way and people are expected to bend like reeds to your will. Nope.

You need to understand that the Oakland people simply want to get the VAH done and desperately want to see progress. The current rehab of the door and entrance represent a very visible presentation of progress to Oaklanders. And sadly, your indecision regarding the rehab of the VAH window trim would have been another visible sign of progress. And all for the glory and benefit of the Conservancy. My declining to be named as the volunteer was for the simple reason to allow the Conservancy to assume full beneficial credit. But, you blew that opportunity. For such reasons my third person FB posts concerning the rehab of the door and entrance have garnered well over 200 'Likes' with another 150 or so going to Pete And John's Paint Market for their expert advice and donation of materials. And both have many, many positive comments. Collectively, that's significant public buzz and excitement and illustrates Oakland's thirst for progress on the VAH. Hence you ought to encourage and facilitate minor but demonstrable improvements to the VAH such as trim rehab and painting rather than serving as a source of obstruction and indecision. But, that's not to be.

The VAH project is not about you and you should check your ego at the door. It's about Oakland and pride in our heritage. To be more candid, I don't think for a second that the vast majority of Oaklanders give a turd about the Conservancy as its agenda seems to encompass so many disparate issues and causes that are either invisible and/or inconsequential to the average resident. People don't know what the Conservancy stands for and likely don't care except for the VAH with the Conservancy label on it. And to the extent that they don't see consistent progress, they don't care what it stands for.

Judy, you don't get it, don't want to get it or your ego won't let you get it. You are not a team player and seem to prefer to be a one-person parade. But just know that there is no 'I' in the word 'team' and it will take a team to make the VAH project happen.

I will conclude that I am very good at advertising and marketing after 45 years of experience in it. And I have proven skills in the shaping of public opinion via social media. The people of Oakland need to know about the leadership failures of the Conservancy if for no other reason than to significantly reduce their hopes and expectations for the VAH.

Just know that I'm not angry. I'm just done. Lessons learned, never again.