

5/3/2022

City Council Meeting

Comment

Missy Ross - At this point, I am certain that you have received dozens of emails with photographic proof of the many divisive thing Shannon Adcock has done in the last 2 years. Even her "petition" is full of bold-faced lies. I will share some of my favorite Quotes from Shannon- SHE CALLED MAYOR CHIRICO A FASCIST "Kim White (married to Naperville City councilman Benny White) hosted a networking event last night at Meson Sabika. Mayor Chirico is pictured at the center. While your kids mask at school, your elected leaders dance and toast each other unmasked. Fire the fascists in the 2023 municipal elections. We won't forget this bullshit." "Awake Illinois Advocates against Critical Race Theory and the "hypocrisy" of Equity Initiatives to School District 203 in Naperville." "Who will I sue next in the state of IL? Eeny, meeny, miny, moe..." "IL is Soviet-style communism." "They use clever buzz words like "Community Action", "social change", "coalition-building" to hide their clear agenda of sexual grooming and hyper-sexualization of minors." "Critical Race Theory. Equity. Culturally Responsive Teaching. Panorama Surveys. Diversity. Inclusion. These words are an attempt to veil the ultimate goal of chaos and division. We are not sheep. This is racism and it is wrong. Don't dissect our children. This problem is among the adults, not the kids." "IL Citizens should pressure organizations to make DEI an unpaid, volunteer role. They'll be vacant and obsolete in no time. Race hustlers don't work for free." "They hate your children. They call you racist. They refer to your children as "ours". They want to silence your advocacy. Wolves in educator/democrat/equity clothing." Remind me, what is the SECA Grant Mission Statement again? "It is to assist the City in furthering special events and artistic cultural experiences that support an inclusive community that values diversity for Naperville and its visitors". I must, then, ask the council how a woman with many more negative things to say, including telling an African American mother of four children in Dist 204 to go open her own charter school if she wanted a culturally responsive teaching pedagogy and she could charge tuition for families that want full-time social justice and race based curriculum. How much more evidence do you need to see before you decide it is obvious that Shannon Adcock is a Far-right extremist that does not believe in DEI and, in fact, totally despises the LGBTQIA and BIPOC communities? Tell me, how does anything about her says she is a good fit for a committee that exists to celebrate diversity equity and inclusion? How does anything about her say her beliefs and drive is conducive to Naperville's DEI plan? THIS is why we feel she isn't fit for SECA, not because she's conservative, but because she is actively against DEI in a role meant to celebrate DEI. As for Mr. Coyne, his far right conservative views has him aligned with women not deserving and should not have autonomy over their own bodies and agrees progressive books or books that don't follow white-washed history, include BIPOC or LGBTQIA main characters or subject matter, and believes telling little Suzy she cannot talk about her two moms and if an educator allows it or even discuss anything that isn't cis, white and straight, the educator should be immediately fired. It's even said (but not personally confirmed) that he has ties to an white extremist hate group. With that much far-right extremism, tell me how he is suitable for the library board where he would certainly push to ban books instead of arming children with history and context, but not banning books. Naperville City Council, I ask that you strike down these appointments before the Mayor formally makes them for you to vote on. These two

individuals are not appropriate for the boards the mayor intended, for whatever reason, to appoint them to. Please say no to Adcock and Coyne!

Antonia Harlan - NAPERVILLE, Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policies and Programs My name is Antonia Harlan, and I have been a resident of Naperville for 35-years. I strongly support the policies and programs of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I do not support theologies based on divisive ideologies of those whose only mission is to divide us and then seek to represent our communities by sitting in positions of authority. These tactics will only take us back to the days when Hate was akin to the special of the day on a restaurant menu. We have come a long way in Naperville since the days of Sundown Towns that kept Blacks and others out after sundown. Granted, we are not a perfect city, no city is, but our city is a work in progress, building and thriving on its diversity, and the people who live here and visit here. Working to better recognize, embrace, and celebrate people of all races, ethnicities, religions, cultures, as well as our LGBTQIA communities. We, as a community, are moving forward, and we must resist going back to the days of 'us and them'. My family moved here when my children were 2 and 4 years old. My husband and I had looked in several other communities throughout Illinois, before deciding to move to Naperville, which was highlighted as a welcoming community with a great school system, and a highly desirable quality of life. Unfortunately for us, the great things that drew most people to Naperville was far from our experience. Our introduction was not very welcoming at all. Soon after arriving, my family was threatened with arrest, while dining with our two young children at a local restaurant, for no other reason than for being Black. We were met with the unsettling occurrences of being watched in our local stores, people driving by our house during a garage sale only to stop at our all our White neighbors' homes and being pulled over by the police for 'Driving While Black.' With our children in the car, we were chased down by a motorist, as he hurled the 'N' word at my husband, and my young son heard the "N" word used in his school by students, as though it were acceptable language. We, as a family, have suffered implicit and explicit biases, discrimination, and racism. Yes, this was Naperville in 1987, the welcoming city we chose to make our home and raise our children. I would theorize that because of the lack of a welcoming atmosphere, my children were often the only Black children in their classrooms from pre-school through High School, and the administration and teaching staff lacked diversity as well. So, as a mother, I had concerns. Concerns about whether my children felt that they belonged; concerns about them being accepted by others; concerns about them not losing their identity as African Americans through assimilation and being able to share their own stories; concerns about getting the attention they needed in the classroom...and not being the 'unseen' or 'the invisibles'; concerns about them being discriminated against; concerns about equity; and especially concerns about their safety. When they were older, I had to have the "Talk", with my children instructing them as to how to conduct themselves if they are ever stopped by the police while driving, as most of our Black families must do. Adding to this, and to add some sense of security, they were also given their first cell phones, when they were able to drive alone. This is a heavy burden for any parent to carry, regardless of race, when like most parent's, all I wanted was what was best for my children. So, early on, these concerns inspired me to embark upon a mission to share our story and culture, and that of others, the 'unseen's', and the 'invisibles', who weren't being recognized in our community, and in our classrooms. You see, I grew up, with neighbors who were Polish, Italian, German, Black, Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Gay and Straight. The adults shared true relationships, the children went to school together, played together, participated in Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts together, and we shared meals

together. I knew their stories, and they knew mine. Although we were racially and culturally different, and shared religious differences, our differences did not separate us. We cared about and took care of each other. Even as a child, I knew this life was a blessing because I had also experienced the damaging effects of racism firsthand. So, through this mission, I attempted to show that we can celebrate our differences and embrace our similarities. We can dispel the stereotypes about others that have permeated our society. We can teach about our lived experiences with 'Truth' based on our history, without dismissing the stories of others. The 'Truth' matters. I was welcomed into the Naperville schools and never was I denied access to be able to share the beauty of diversity with the students. This mission should be seen as a priority, no matter whether the truth brings us the sadness of our sufferings, or it brings us the joy of our accomplishments and perseverance in our lived experiences. In the words of Maya Angelou, "You can't really know where you are going, until you know where you have been." During one of my school presentations, I was met with the eagerness and curiosity of young people, who were excited to learn about other cultures. After I presented to a gymnasium full to the rafters of middle school children, a teacher walked up to me and said, "I've never seen them so quiet and attentive. Whatever you have, I want some of it." What I had was what the world offers us every day, an opportunity to take a closer look at our neighbor, to learn about their life experiences, to understand the reality that they may be different from us...but not so different, to learn that we share some of the same wants and desires, to learn that we all share a need for a sense of belonging and acceptance. The opportunities are all around us to take advantage of, if you can break away from the grips of the anti-ideologies, like anti-Diversity, anti-Equity, anti-Inclusion, anti-Black History, anti-Asian, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQIA, anti-Culturally Responsive Teaching, and anti-Anything that in fact attempts to divide our community, instead of bringing us together. How exhausting. Instead, let us embrace the ideas of anti-Hate. How about that? Embracing the belief that our diversity is our strength, not our weakness, gives us the opportunity to fully contribute to our communities with our time, talents, and richness that our varied cultures bring. Let us not allow the narrowminded divisive views of some, prevent us from continuing to move forward. Naperville has come a long way, from being a Sundown Town. But, if we don't stand up against these forces as a community, I dare to think of what might come next. We must say no to efforts to sabotage DEI policies, no to book banning's that strive to eliminate the history and stories mainly of the BIPOC communities, say yes to embracing all cultures, no to hate contrived cultural wars, and no to the disinformation propaganda around Critical Race Theory. Fact... CRT is only taught in Law School, not K-12. Let's continue to strive to be what the city has pledged, "The City of Naperville is intentional about diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in Naperville and recognizes that diversity in our community and organization make the city stronger. Advancing equity and inclusion is not a project, rather a constant process of improvement. Naperville is committed to increasing the City's emphasis on diversity, equity an inclusion in the organization and the community. If we live by this mission pledge, and stand up against naysayers, our future as a community will continue to shine bright and move forward.

Tom Clowes – My name is Tom Clowes, and I am a former cello teacher at Indian Prairie School District. I spoke with Shannon Adcock for nearly an hour when she was a candidate for the IPSD school board. I shared with her about the racial achievement gap in IPSD, and about the racial discrimination against my students of color that I saw with my own eyes. In response, Shannon made clear she believed that anti-White discrimination is real, but that anti-Black discrimination is mostly imagined. Shannon denied that

the racial achievement gap at IPSD existed, even though it's well-documented, while at the same time saying the gap was caused by the bad behavior of students of color. I was so shocked by this response, I thought I had misheard and asked Shannon to repeat herself. She did. After our long conversation, Shannon sent me a thank you note in the mail. I was deeply disappointed to find out the huge disparity between the courtesy she extended to me, a White male who lived far from the district and no longer even taught at IPSD, and the curt and dismissive e-mail response she made to a local Black woman voter whose children attended IPSD and who expressed nearly identical concerns. "Awake Illinois," a group founded by Shannon, refers to people who support LGBT youth as "groomers." When I commented in support of LGBT youth, I too was called a "groomer." If Shannon wants to call me a sexual predator for supporting marginalized LGBT youth or people from any marginalized identity, let her do so. In doing so, and through her many words and actions, Shannon makes it clear that she does not support and would not serve all members of her community. For this reason, she is unfit for appointment to any public position. Thank you, Tom Clowes

Holly Patterson - Mayor Chirico and City Council Members, I am sure by now you have all been inundated with information as to why Shannon Adcock and Kevin Coyne's views clash with the city's mission and as such, would not be good representatives for any Naperville board or commission. I am also quite certain there are some residents that agree with Mr. Coyne when he claimed that "efforts to halt their nominations to serve on city advisory boards will prevent the residents with similar views from being heard". Mr. Coyne, the founder of Safe Suburbs USA PAC is a supporter/moderator of Awake IL, a group founded by Mrs. Adcock. The Safe Suburbs advisory board currently has six members serving on Naperville boards and commissions and two former council members. The views of Mrs. Adcock and Mr. Coyne seem to be strongly represented throughout Naperville government - their voices are being heard. The many Naperville residents who oppose these possible nominations and who, contrary to beliefs, fully support our police and first responders have substantiated concerns over Mrs. Adcock and Mr. Coyne serving in any government role. I just returned from chaperoning a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Skokie and one of the last presentations I watched ended with a quote by Rabbi Joachim Prinz, "Bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problem. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful, and the most tragic problem is silence".

Jacque Clermont - I am a 41-year resident of Naperville and serve as a Commissioner on the Special Events and Cultural Amenities Commission for the past 4.5 years. It has been an honor and privilege to volunteer for the City of Naperville as I believe in civic duty that serves all of our community. I offer a background in special event planning, a master's degree in public service, and nonprofit budgeting with employment experience in multiple municipalities. At our last SECA meeting, I shared with the commission that I appreciate our discussions and different views. If we all had the same thought processes, there would be no reason to meet. I am stepping down from this volunteer position once my spot is filled. I want to thank Mayor Chirico and the City Council for the appointment. I have gained so much knowledge from this commission and respectfully ask that open volunteer SECA commission appointments are filled appropriately. This volunteer must be respectful and inclusively open to learning from community opinions that are not their own.

12-22-0413 - I-12: Amend municipal code to be gender neutral

Marilyn Schweitzer – Support

L1 – Naper Settlement Fund

Marilyn Schweitzer - I appreciate all the point Mary Lou Wehrli made at the last meeting. Unfortunately, those issue nor adequate explanation as to the short fall and how future budgets will we prevent such errors or make amends has been given. Please do not approve this without a more complete explanation.