

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment.

I understand that the public meeting held between the Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District and the representatives from the U.S. Mine Corporation on Thursday February Twelfth resulted in the mining company receiving a three month exclusive negotiation period in pursuit of the leasing of some of the facilities located at the former pulp mill near Samoa. The original period of time requested by the mining company was six months. The original amount of money offered to the Harbor Commission remains the same which is Six Thousand dollars. As reported in the Times/Standard, the meeting was attended by a maximum capacity crowd. I was happy to hear that the meeting was so well attended and, evidently, the speakers did not consist of only nay-Sayers. Something as large as this venture cannot be decided upon in one meeting in one day. All the pros and cons need to be brought to light and discussed thoroughly before a decision is made. Questions were asked that the mining company was not able to answer with the resources they had on hand. Now, there should be time for those questions to be answered in a thorough manner. I have no idea as to how many questions were fielded that night, nor their answers because I was not there but, as it was reported that public comment lasted more than an hour, there must have been a few. As I read the newspaper article describing the event I took exception to one of the public comments. The person, I will not use names, in expressing environmental concerns, stated according to the Times/Standard paper, "It disappoints me that the commission is even considering this process. I would anticipate that this is not even worth this company's time". To me, this means that this citizen, using the right of free speech is telling everyone that the mining company's right to free speech should be limited because they are part of something that the citizen is against. This appears to be an example of an environmentalist with pre conceived ideas ready to shut down free speech that happens to interfere with his or her line of thinking. I thank the Harbor Commission for giving the mining company representatives the opportunity to present their complete case to the public. I can remember years back, when some businesses wanted to locate in our area, the decision rested with a select few whose judgment was based on what was in it for them, not the community. This is not a way to improve our community. I like to think of communication as a door which allows ideas to pass freely in both directions. Some doors only swing one way and can be locked to keep out intruders. Other doors swing both ways allowing passage in both directions. What kind of a door do you maintain in your communications?

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