

Good morning -

My name is Paulette Prodanchek and I serve on the Dare County Older Adult Services Advisory Council.

Members of our Council have appeared before this Board several times in the past regarding the proposed Roanoke Island Senior Center. We have also attended some of the Roanoke Island Senior Center Committee meetings, met with Mt. Olivet nutrition site attendees, and spoken with many seniors about this issue. From the beginning of this process, our only concern was that Roanoke Island and mainland Dare County senior citizens would not be forgotten. Our fears originated early and steadily increased after we learned that Senior Center Committee had redirected its' planning efforts towards a community center very early in their meeting process. What your board planned for five years, after recognizing the need, had been negated in a few short weeks.

On February 14 of this year, Mr. Malcolm Fearing requested that our advisory council create and provide him with copies of proposed Roanoke Island Senior Center usage guidelines and a facility request form which he was to take back to and discuss with his committee. We met with him a second time to discuss the documents. Both times, he presented himself to us as Malcolm Fearing – speaking on behalf of Malcolm Fearing. In good faith, we believed Mr. Fearing when he assured us that our two groups were not that far apart.

At your February 5, 2007 Board of Commissioners Meeting, County Manager Terry Wheeler advised you to consider selling the site on which we stand today. He called this a valuable, commercial property and suggested that it may be too valuable for taxpayer use. I take heart that your Chair has since stated that he is never in favor of selling county owned land. Yet, the county manager's remarks remind me of an over-used plot in so many movies. You know - the one where someone only needs to obtain that one piece of land to complete his whole site for a major deal. I pray that county taxpayers realize top dollar if this site is sold at some future date.

As for today, I congratulate the committee on your highly probable selection of the Justice Center site. Hopefully, the future will show that this was the best location and that the needs of seniors from Roanoke Island and the nearby communities were satisfied.