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## Fundraiser steps down from cityhood effort

**By Chelsea Phua - Bee Staff Writer**

**Published 12:00 am PDT Thursday, July 19, 2007**

A longtime political campaign fundraiser who recently joined the cityhood drive for Arden Arcade has resigned from the effort, citing a lack of organizational structure and leadership among proponents.

Jacqui Bell, who joined the Arden Arcade Incorporation Committee in April to push for cityhood in the area, sent an e-mail June 28 announcing her resignation. She wrote that she was forced to resign as chief lobbyist and political consultant as of June 30.

Joel Archer, who leads the incorporation committee, says the group is organized, garnering support and making progress on its grass-roots efforts.

He said it was apparent after Bell joined that she wasn't a good fit for the committee.

"It became obvious that her sole intent was not to benefit the incorporation committee," Archer said.

In a letter explaining her reasons for leaving the group, Bell cited dictatorial control by the committee chairman, a lack of consensus building, and a lack of financial accountability and documentation.

She also said she isn't sure if she will be paid a commission for her fundraising efforts.

"The chair continues to use autocratic authority when dealing with committee members, dismissing their ideas or decisions, which allows no room for debate during discussion time periods," Bell wrote.

Archer said he is sorry Bell feels that way.

"I'm a very type-A personality, very passionate about incorporation," he said.

Pat Cole, the committee's treasurer, when asked about Bell's view of Archer, said Bell has a different perspective from the rest of the committee members.

Cole said she and Archer often update the committee on its finances.

However, like Archer, she would not divulge details of the financial account to The Bee, saying several donors prefer to remain anonymous.

The committee said on its Web site that it has raised \$147,075 to date, and lists dozens of contributors. Most of the money has been spent on the earlier activities, such as collecting signatures to move the effort forward. Archer would not say how much was spent, and Cole said she does not know.

Under state campaign finance guidelines, the committee does not need to disclose its sources of contribution, the amount or how much and where it's being spent until it becomes an official campaign.

Cole said the committee is still in its education phase.

Committee member Trish Harrington said she is sad that Bell is leaving.

"I think she has a lot to offer," Harrington said.

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