

"Politics"

-Chris Smithson, Southern Pines native, resident, and Councilmember

According to Webster's Online Dictionary, "politics" is "the art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy." Interestingly, the dictionary mentions nothing about Republicans or Democrats.

Thus, it is a shame so many otherwise reasonable people, including former Councilmembers, choose to twist the Council's concern that appointments to an advisory not be perceived as "intended to guide or influence" the outcome of the plan into some unrelated issue over Republicans and Democrats or liberals and conservatives.

The Council unanimously appointed the advisory committee for the town's comprehensive long-range plan. It is a strong committee made up of twenty individuals representing as many facets of our community as possible. That Councilmembers have received substantial feedback, pro and con, concerning the controversial omission in question, proves the Council was right to choose to unanimously select committee members and avoid controversial appointments.

As always, you can visit my website www.ChrisSmithson.com for another perspective.