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## Déjà vu all over again

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

Those more concerned with control than accomplishment object to the appointment of attorney Barbara Bonds to the Downtown Development Authority board of directors. The palpable fear in the voices of Patrick Collins, Mark Rinne and particularly Tom Segrave is obvious.

This little group of mostly unqualified and ineligible board members do not want an opinionated member - one who may speak up and speak out about their shenanigans that are at least partially responsible for the emptying of Cheyenne's downtown retail and office spaces.

Why do I say "déjà vu" all over again?

Because the same objection to having a board member who was qualified, eligible and willing to serve was raised in 1999 or 2000 when Jack Spiker, as a city councilman who opposed the DDA at the time, nominated one of the downtown's largest business and property owner's to serve on the same DDA board. It was a simple request at the time. Few were willing to serve (as now) and fewer were eligible under the rules. This particular guy was outspoken and not intimidated by the likes of those already on that board, including its president.

Leo Pando had agreed to appoint the guy, subject to Council confirmation.

When the nomination wasn't made promptly, Jack asked Leo what was delaying the appointment. Leo told Jack that the DDA president did not want an opinionated guy on the board. Eventually, the guy was appointed and, until he relocated his business to Loveland, served.

Had Leo known that Jack would unseat him in the next mayoral election, he likely would have sided with the DDA president and the property owner and business operator would not have been named.

Frankly, I am amazed that Barbara Bonds, who I consider a friend, would apply for a seat on this weak and ineffective board. But there is great satisfaction in knowing that there will be at least a single member who won't sit through their meeting bobbing her head like the dog in the back car window. She has previously sat in the LEADS board so this is hardly an important line on her resume.

The mental picture of Tom Segrave, the Council's representative to this heretofore valueless board being brought nearly to tears and tantrum by a stronger person than himself on the DDA board, is priceless. Bullies do not like to be challenged - no where, no time, no how.

The betting here - recognizing that gaming for money is illegal within the chaste city limits of Cheyenne - is that Segrave will not accept reappointment to that board when the time comes.

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There are other seats to fill. More if the mayor decided to follow the rules of appointment and remove some of those ineligible to serve. Perhaps others will now be willing to participate on what had been a rubber stamp, headnodding group. Wouldn't that be something?

There is close to a million dollars to spend toward the betterment of downtown and it would be nice if it were spent on something other than lunches for board members. Or overpriced reports from Colorado "consultants" telling us what we should already know.