

The Allegan County News



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'Not my backyard' Secchia deserves no sympathy

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To the editor: I've seen everything now. Big Bad Peter Secchia, the man famous for the words, "Not in my backyard," has changed his tune a little. Now he's tired, hurt, beat up and trying to convince everyone of what a guy he is. What changed?

He wants everyone to forget that he has bullied his way around the political and business landscape in Michigan for decades. The way he organized opposition to the Gun Lake Casino is a microcosm of his many turf wars. Grand Rapids developers and officials tell of numerous heavy-handed Secchia incidents.

In the past weeks we've all seen or heard Secchia's media tour. The purpose was two-fold: Continue his mission to kill the tribe's casino by muddying the waters with his own casino proposal and cries for sympathy; and, secondarily, to promote the Secchia Casino.

His pleas about being beat up and picked on fell on deaf ears. Secchia also complained about being called a racist. I don't ever recall the tribe or its supporters calling him a racist. I have read people rightly refer to him as greedy and a hypocrite, but not a racist.

However, the hypersensitive manner in which Secchia is talking about race is interesting. If he wants to avoid the appearance he should stop trying to keep a poor group of Indians mired in poverty all because he wants every penny.

Also interesting is his sly backpeddle from his casino proposal after it caused so much controversy. Now he says that he simply "floated" the idea to start dialogue. Yet, a couple weeks ago, Secchia's big local daily in Grand Rapids printed his dissertation on how this casino would be approved, built, funded, owned and who the beneficiaries would be. Sounds like a lot of thought went into a mere "idea."

Now, after he's been publicly called out for the hypocrite that he is, he changes his tune a little. Good luck finding a shoulder to cry on Peter. You reap what you sow.

*Robin Berry
Dorr*