

FW: Racial issues

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Sent from Outlook**From:** John Brasunas <jcbbox@earthlink.net>**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 3:55 PM**To:** washgrove@comcast.net**Subject:** Racial issues

March 30, 2023

To the Mayor and Members of the Washington Grove Town Council
Re: Acknowledging Washington Grove's Racially Exclusionary Past

I believe that part of reference 8 in the PowerPoint collection is misleading. Reference 8 discusses racial covenants, of which there were three. The third covenant sought to exclude non-Whites. I do not doubt this part of reference 8.

I have concerns about the second part of Reference 8, where we learn from R. Shantz's 1975 book that the first Grove mayor "because he handled numerous real estate transactions, he often spoke of the covenants and of selling property to the right people." The inclusion of this information in this context (a reference about racial covenants) implies the mayor had racially exclusive intent. I don't think this is the correct interpretation. Why?

(1) The covenants exclude non-Whites. If that were also the mayor's intent, he was done; the covenants take care of non-Whites for him. He did not have to speak also of "selling property to the right people". I read the Shantz extract to mean that the mayor had to go beyond the covenants, in order to exclude the wrong sort of Whites.

(2) Who would these "wrong" Whites be? They would be followers of Walker (Shantz's grandfather). There was a longstanding struggle between the Walker camp (a Grove for investors who owned Grove houses to rent them out for summer occupancy), and the McCathran camp (a Grove for people who owned property and lived there year round).

(3) The mayor "often spoke of the covenants" perhaps because he would rather not be limited by their restrictions.

Respectfully,

John C. Brasunas
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