

Al Burns

#332181 | November 9, 2022

Testimony to the Planning and Sustainability Commission on the Planning Commission Code Amendments, Proposed Draft

Dear Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to testify yesterday and for leaving the record open so that I may provide some follow-up impressions of the hearing. 1. It is necessary to narrow the present commission's scope in order to effectively focus on both very important and sometime mundane land use matters, but I agree with some of the thoughts expressed that the proposed narrowing has gone too far. 2. It really is part of the commission's job to occasionally meddle in someone other bureau's business. Not all bureaus are as committed to the open, participatory and collaborative decision making that is part and parcel of commission's practice. When a bureau has a role in carrying out the comprehensive plan, and does so with clandestine method's or toward an inequitable outcome, the commission should have a role in calling that out. Yes, that will make the other mad, and yes it may have been done at the direction of their commissioner in charge, but that is the wrong reaction. The correct reaction is to admit error and do better next time. 3.

Comprehensive plan implementation involves far more than just fiddling with the zoning code, so the commission should be empowered to have a role in the other aspects of plan implementation. This would not always involve a hearing before the commission, and while it would be imprudent for the commission testify in quasi-judicial land use decisions, it would be fully appropriate for the commission to comment on the legislative decisions of other bureaus to the extent those decisions would affect plan implementation. 4. The purpose and powers code sections seem to be muddled. It would be better to more carefully distinguish what the commission does from the explanation of why it does what it does. 5. In the "why the commission does what it does" section please avoid reinventing the wheel. The comp plan already has "Guiding Principles," pages I-7 through I-37 at this link: https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2019-08/comp_plan_intro.pdf and social justice and equity policies in Goal 2 of the plan at: https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2019-08/02_community-involvement_0.pdf. I don't see why citing the guiding principles would not suffice. Respectfully Submitted, Al Burns.

Testimony is presented without formatting.