

At the PSC hearing on September 23rd, myself and several other individuals requested that hearings continue, and that the record be kept open for 90 days after the Mixed Use Zones have been completely defined. That will give Neighborhood Associations time to understand and consider this important plan which will be in effect for the next twenty years. The Multnomah Neighborhood Association and the SWNI coalition followed up with similar letters making this very reasonable request. To date, this commission has not responded. Please grant this request and make it publicly known as soon as possible.

For me today, the greatest concern about this flawed draft plan, is the deprecation of the role of neighborhood associations with respect to the role they currently play in the existing comp plan. The new draft limits their role to one of quote "local experts and channels for place-based projects" end-quote. This is found in policy 2.1.c. The word "channel" is not defined in the glossary, but in policy 2.6 it does occur in the phrase "Channels of Communication."

Neighborhood associations are not however included in the list of "Channels of Communication" presented in 2.6. Presumably they are restricted in their role as "channels" to place-based concerns. In contrast, policy 2.1.e lists "Interest and affinity organizations" as unrestricted in the issues they may partner with the city to decide.

I am reading the language here very closely, but please correct it and make the wording and intent clear in the policies I have mentioned. I am making a big deal of this because in verbal communications with the staff at BPS, I have come to understand that the notion of "community" is replacing that of "neighborhood association" as the primary body for state required citizen involvement. Indeed, "community" is listed in the glossary! It is, quote "a group of people with a shared sense of identity or belonging" end-quote. That is very general, and presumably includes churches, mosques, synagogues, political parties, and in the absurd case, street-gangs.

How will the city determine who speaks for each group and whether they were chosen by a democratic process? Will there be a list of allowed organizations, along with a staff of investigators? What if one individual joins a large number of groups? Wouldn't she be over represented? The Neighborhood association is the correct vehicle to play this roll. Please return the neighborhood association to its rightful place in the proposed plan.

Also: From a previous hearing, let me also remind you of two good ideas. 1) A section on noise should be added. 2) A section on broadband equity should be added.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Kielhorn
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