

From: Bob Sallinger [<mailto:bsallinger@audubonportland.org>]

Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 7:34 PM

To: 'Joe'; 'Anderson, Susan'

Cc: 'Joe'; 'Travis Williams'; 'Scott Fogarty'; 'Jim Labbe'; 'Anderson, Susan'; 'Jortner, Roberta (Planning)'; 'Edmunds, Sallie'; 'Brooks, Mindy (Planning)'; 'Eric (Planning)'; 'Judy Blue Horse'; psc@portlandoregon.gov; scherzcarder@comcast.net; 'Mike Houck'; 'Chris Smith'; 'Timme Helzer'

Subject: Comp Plan Mitigation Requirments taking a huge step backwards

Dear Joe and Susan,

Audubon was very surprised to see the substantial weakening of the natural resource mitigation policies in the proposed comp plan amendments. It is even more surprising given how integral these concepts are to the city's environmental health, that they would be on the consent agenda buried among several pages of additional amendments. The proposed amendments do two things as I read them:

- 1) The city backs away from the concept of fully mitigating for unavoidable impacts of development on significant natural resources. We believe that the city should not only require full mitigation, but in fact should require net increase in function. Instead the city is going the other direction....This virtually ensures that the city' natural resources will degrade over time.
- 2) The City has abandoned the long standing principle of requiring mitigation first and within the sub watershed second and replaced it with a much weaker requirement that completely abandons "on site" and instead allows mitigation to occur anywhere "in watershed" first and "outside watershed" and the city second." This is a huge step backwards---developers are always pushing to do mitigation outside the city because it is far less expensive. The result of this change will be that we will see a steady loss of natural resource values inside the city as they are developed over and then mitigated in the hinterlands.

These principles are far too big to abandon this late in the process without even a discussion. It is very disappointing as a stakeholder who spent huge amounts of time on Comp Plan task forces, that these concepts would be abandoned without even a heads-up or a discussion. I would urge you to red flag these issues for the PSC and put them on the discussion agenda.

Thanks

Bob

I wholly support these concerns. Without mitigation, we lose essential natural resource functions. Without high functioning resources, we have degraded resources, a declining quality of life in Portland and an increase in significant impacts on the human environment due to natural hazards.

After the hard work we all did, I am disappointed that the measures we supported are being weakened or removed from the comp plan.

We must have these concerns discussed by the PSC, not just buried in a list of consent agenda items.

Let us know how we can help raise this discussion in the appropriate forums.

Claire Carder
6156 SW Nevada Ct.
Portland, OR 97219

Dear Joe and Susan,

Thank you to everyone who has committed so much time and energy over the many years to this Comprehensive Plan on how we will all live here together in a good way for a long time. I'm especially appreciative of people like Bob Salinger of Audubon who, throughout this lengthy process, consistently read the fine print when I was too tired to. The current weakened Plan compromising our land and waterways for future generations is indeed surprising and disheartening. I echo Bob's assertions that these principles are too big to abandon this late in the process without a discussion and urge you to red flag these issues for the PSC for further discussion.

Given the spirit in which Mayor Potter acknowledged that historically marginalized and underserved communities were to be "at the table" for this Planning process, the lack of transparency and disappointing outcome despite years of being "at the table" on VisionPDX, citizen involvement committees, and ultimately, the Industrial Land Use and Watershed PEGs is particularly troubling and has raised tough questions around trust, equity, and authentic relationship building.

Thank you,

~Judy



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