

Hi all,

It was reported to me yesterday that Planning staff withheld all your letters and emails and did not allow the Commission access to them prior to yesterday's meeting.

They also withheld the separate formal, representative letter I wrote regarding our strong opposition to the proposed upzoning on SE Morrison and Belmont between 15-19th Avenues.

They said this was done to protect the Commissioners from being "overwhelmed" or burdened prior to the meeting where we told they were actually going to discuss in detail the issues we were raising concerns about.

I find this deeply disturbing..especially since I had also raised concerns in my email about all this "closed to public testimony decision-making" taking place while the public is being told testimony is open until mid March.

This entire process, in my view, is weighted heavily on the ideas and concepts of Planning staff, their connection and influence with the Commissioners themselves, and I now believe after yesterday, the public has little means to influence any of it.

Sadly, I no longer believe we can effectively be a part of or have any genuine influence on these proposals working in the existing constraints and controls of information and public testimony by the bureau as well as their ability to propose and then implement these sweeping neighborhood altering land use changes with little controlled oversight.

I have asked for a meeting with the Mayor's chief of staff with Planning to voice these concerns and to get some focus on the sweeping impacts these bureau-promoted concepts will actually mean for our neighborhood.

That meeting is set up for week after this, and I have asked Rick to join me.

I welcome your thoughts and those of your neighbors.

Thank you,

Susan Lindsay

Just a foot note. To make clear, these concerns are not directed at any one staff or administrator.

The way the system/ process has been set up, along with a practiced 'over concern' for the commission members, (who like us are all volunteers), and a marked 'under' concern for the public is what has contributed to this process being out of balance. The public lacks relevance, and a real "voice", and that must change.

Susan

Nancy Matela

On Jan 28, 2015, at 9:20 PM, Sheila Baraga <sheilabaraga@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Neighbors,

I was shocked to find out that NONE of our emails or letters regarding the zoning change from R-1 to Commercial on se Stark and 14th were presented to the Planning & Sustainability on our behalf! How can we be so disregarded? The plan is to 'upzone' the Stark building between 14th & 15th as well as 'upzone' SE Morrison & Belmont between 15th & 19th. These moves to higher heights and thicker density will have a profound affect on our Buckman neighborhood, and we have no voice with the system set up as it is now. It seems crazy but it's true. Please see the below letter from Susan Lindsay and reply with your input.

Also, please make your voice heard at the Office of Planning & Sustainability-Susan Anderson, Director (susan.anderson@portlandoregon.gov) and the Mayor's office (mayorcharliehales@portlandoregon.gov)

This has got to change. Thank you so much. I know you are all very busy and your time is very appreciated.

Sheila Baraga
423 se 15th Avenue
[503.318.8338](tel:503.318.8338)

Hi Nancy. Thank you for the suggestion.

I just talked to the Willamette Week and I'm putting together an email to Brent Walth, Managing Editor for News. Anyone that would like to send a letter to him, would be most welcome and encouraged to do so.

His email is bwalth@wweek.com

Thank you all for your efforts to help shape the future growth of our neighborhood.

Sheila Baraga
423 se 15th Ave (at Stark)
503.318.8338

On Jan 29, 2015 8:25 AM, "Nancy Matela" <nmatela@pacifier.com> wrote:
I think WW might cover the story. Maybe the O.