

March 11, 2015

Dear members of the PSC

I write to you as a concerned member of the Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association.

Along with many Portlanders, I am worried about the language (what is both present and absent) from the Draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

Are we paying the planners to manage growth, or to promote it? Are they working for us, or for the developers?

Where is the sustainability at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability?

The comprehensive plan currently in place requires that the city coordinate land-use planning by providing notice of official hearings to the neighborhood associations. This language has been removed from the draft plan. This is not acceptable. Not only that, the proposed glossary definition of “neighborhoods” concludes: “In general, the word ‘neighborhoods’ is not intended to refer to specific neighborhood geographies.” This makes little sense.

I request that the draft plan be amended to define neighborhoods by their association boundaries and that the existing role of the neighborhood associations not only be retained but even expanded. The Planning and Sustainability Commission ought to include the dedicated and invested members of current neighborhood associations in their work by creating a seat for each neighborhood coalition on the commission and on all major land-use committees. The PSC must recognize that we live in our neighborhoods and we are continually impacted by policies that privilege developers at the cost of losing what is sustainable and precious about Portland.

Thank you for your consideration

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