

From: Eric Schnell [<mailto:eric8schnell@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2014 3:38 PM
To: PDX Comp Plan
Subject: PSC Comprehensive Plan Testimony

Dear Portland City Planners,

As a Portland resident in Homestead neighborhood, I would like to make two specific suggestions/concerns regarding the current Comprehensive Plan Draft.

1. The new comprehensive plan should not supersede previously adopted neighborhood and district plans. Specifically, the Marquam Hill Plan and the Terwilliger Parkway Plan should be referred to by name and prioritized to stand as currently intended. These plans were adopted only after a long public process involving all stakeholders, and thus are more legitimate in their planning intent and more location-specific than the closed-door writing that appears to have resulted in the Comp Plan. I fear that depending in its interpretation/implementation, the Comp Plan may seriously degrade livability in our neighborhood as it has a one-size-fits-all approach to some issues. As the other plans already exist- again after a long involved public dialogue- these processes and hard work should not be discarded.

2. Neighborhood associations should still be explicitly mentioned as a primary component of the political and land use planning process. Portland's NA system is an astoundingly successful way to get public involvement in the planning process and in inspiring volunteerism and civic interactions between neighbors. The Comp Plan appears to minimize its significance, and will, in effect, have the effect of reducing citizen involvement in city planning. Perhaps this is intentional, but I can say that I am saddened by the thought. The Comp Plan should reinforce the importance of the NA system as well as ONI as institutions with an important role in city planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am sorry that I could not make a meeting to testify in person.

Thanks,
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