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**Sent:** Wednesday, November 14, 2018 12:09 PM  
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**Subject:** Important Questions for Upcoming Meetings  
Julia -

I am copying both the General Plan Committee and the City Council members on this, as the below feedback has been repeated to me numerous times since I recently publicized our area community input meeting regarding the new General Plan. This is coming from residents I have never met - so some of the 'new people' the Council talks about hearing from. I'm also sharing with you as you may feel it prudent to address at the meetings.

While the words 'process theater' aren't used, the concern I'm hearing is the same: Are these meetings merely to check a box? What weight is actually given to the voice of the residents if they attend? Following is a portion of a communication from one of these residents which asks more specifically:

*"...what weight is the City actually going to give community input from these meetings?*

*Has the staff or council said that they will take comments into consideration?...did they say they would implement the input from the meetings?...Is this just a "talk" session?*

*And who is it that decides what gets put in the final plan from this process? Or like the earlier Bay Meadows/TOD process, does the input just go into a vacuum and get buried in the bureaucracy...never to be heard of again?*

*How is community input going to be weighted against the real estate and business and construction union and yimby (sic) interests?*

*I honestly think this a question that need to asked up front before the process and we should get a clear answer from the City and it should be on the record.*

*Another one is how much market rate versus affordable is going to be built/zoned in this future visioning?*

*The problem in San Mateo is lack of affordable housing not lack of market rate housing...the fact is that there is actually plenty of both market rate rental and for sale housing available right now in the City of San Mateo and the rest of the Peninsula (just look at the real estate listings/there is plenty available at \$4000/ month etc. or \$1.5 million plus in the real estate listings)...the issue, which they (developers and real estate folks) constantly conflate (the two) in every one of their development proposals. My point is how is the City handling that distinction or are they also conflating the two distinct types of development and saying more general development is the future plan? As a citizen, I would say we need more affordable not just blindly more development. Make affordable a large part of the zoning part of the plan..."*

*Sincerely,*

Lisa Taner  
Beresford Hillsdale Neighborhood Association