

From: Julia Klein

Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 12:53 PM

To: Michael Nash [REDACTED]; Lisa Taner [REDACTED]; General Plan <generalplan@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: RE: Important Questions for Upcoming Meetings

Hi Mike and Lisa,

I appreciate your efforts to help get the word out and personally encourage people to attend one of the visioning meetings, share their perspective and listen to others, and work together to identify shared values and draft shared visions.

Thanks also for passing along the feedback you've received during your efforts to promote community engagement. As you know, similar questions were raised at the General Plan meetings last week. While the standard business protocol is to acknowledge receipt and that the public comment letter will be forwarded to the appropriate review body, I agree that clarifying process related questions will be helpful.

I was happy to answer the questions during the GP meetings and have provided the information in bullet format in case you would like to share with others you speak with.

- The General Plan Update effort is a multi-year community planning effort.
- Community input is vital in helping to shape the vision for San Mateo in 2040.
- Staff is working with community partners to try different ways of reaching the broader San Mateo community including those who may not have participated in community planning before. We're listening to suggestions.
- The City is interested in getting input from the broader San Mateo community that includes residents (both property owners and renters), businesses and others who contribute to the quality of life here.
- Community input from multiple sources include input provided during the General Plan visioning workshops/meetings, online survey, public comment letters, etc.
- PlaceWorks, the GP consultant, will review all community input, organize (and translate any materials submitted in a language other than English), pull out common themes in a memo and present the information to the GPS, PC and CC for their review.
- Community input during the visioning phase will be forwarded to the General Plan Subcommittee (GPS) at the Dec. 17th meeting, and to the Planning Commission (PC) and City Council (CC) at future study sessions in early 2019.
- The GPS, PC and CC meetings are open to the public and meeting dates/times will be posted once they are scheduled. We also asked everyone to sign up to receive updates of future meetings.

Please let me know if there are questions about the above.

Lastly, in consideration of the Brown Act, I've moved the elected and appointed city officials to BCC.

Thanks,

Julia Klein
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City of San Mateo
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From: Lisa Taner [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 12:09 PM
To: Julia Klein <jklein@cityofsanmateo.org>
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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