

From: Stephen N. Floor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2021 1:18 PM
To: General Plan <generalplan@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Re: general plan info session feedback

Thanks for your reply Linda and thanks for a great event!

On Sat, Mar 27, 2021 at 12:57 PM General Plan <generalplan@cityofsanmateo.org> wrote:

Hi Stephen,

Thanks for attending today's workshop. I will share your feedback with the team on how we can be more proactive in meeting the Diversity, Balance and Inclusivity values of the vision statement. As staff mentioned, we cannot guarantee that all participants will share with us their race, gender and age. I appreciate your suggestion of utilizing zip codes as a potential data point to verify accurate representation.

Lastly, I apologize if the Q&A format was inequitable. We ended today's session with 9 unanswered questions (out of a total of 60+), and we intend to follow up on all questions from today. The Q&A notes will be shared with the public as well. This is our first time hosting a virtual workshop and as the staff person going through them, I learn new things each time on the Zoom platform! We will be more mindful of equity so that more voices, rather than the same ones, are heard. We also have a Spanish language workshop planned in April (exact date TBD) that we are co-hosting with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC). We recognize certain community members need City staff to directly engage them and to create spaces for them to participate comfortably, due to language barriers and lack of familiarity with government.

You will receive a post-event survey within the next few days, so I encourage you to provide further feedback there. Again, thanks for sharing your thoughts and helping our General Plan Update be a more robust effort.

Sincerely,

Linda



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From: Stephen N. Floor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2021 12:07 PM
To: General Plan <generalplan@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: general plan info session feedback

Hello,

Thank you for the informative session this morning. I asked the question regarding demographic information on commenters. I appreciate your sensitivity to the history of segregation in San Mateo, but I believe that without demographic information about respondents we may inadvertently enact another generation of segregationist policy - for example, by excluding predominantly white single-family home neighborhoods and focusing development in areas with more people of color. Policies that don't take into account their impact as a function of race and gender may inadvertently be racist or sexist, and analyzing such demographic information is important to insulate against this. Since San Mateo is so segregated and yet is very diverse, perhaps zip code could serve as a stand-in to ensure we're receiving comments from across the city. Regardless, some type of attention to broader feedback than was at this info session today (like most such sessions) is critical to achieve the Diversity, Balance, and Inclusivity championed in the General Plan values statement.

I would also like to express my disappointment that so many questions were asked by the same vocal individuals who consistently dominate meetings like these. Questions went unanswered today, yet some individuals asked ten or more questions. In my opinion, it is critical that more attention is paid to giving all attendees a voice over individuals who may be especially engaged or feel entitled in commenting. Flooding the dialog with anti-housing sentiment and questions skews public opinion based on the concerns of a few vocal residents and may inhibit others from asking questions who are from historically disadvantaged groups or are less familiar with city planning. Taking all questions as they come instead of focusing on who is asking questions is a great example of how a policy based on "equality" (answering in the order they are received) can result in inequality (unequal attention) when attention is not paid to equity (how many times have people spoken).

Best regards,

Stephen

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