

March 17, 2011

Dear Mayor Hoffman and City Councilors:

Speaking as a member of the Comp Plan CAC, I would like to state that I feel completely comfortable moving ahead with the Draft Vision Statement. It is the result of a great deal of hard work on the part of staff, the consultant and the CAC members. I take exception to Councilor Olson's statement in her e-mail of 3/14/2011, that staff and the consultant, with some direction, did all the word-smithing. That's far from what occurred in our meetings. With few exceptions, every word was visited and revisited by the CAC. The words, the messages and the intent of the Vision were discussed vigorously and at length, and the CAC agreed it was ready to move to the next step.

I am very pleased that the public gave it high marks and that the results were statistically valid. The citizens of Lake Oswego are capable of listening to, understanding and responding to long sentences. To ignore that process and the work that has gone into it would indeed be irresponsible.

This work all builds on the past planning, visions, and rich history of Lake Oswego, and looks to the future, which must include sustainability at many levels. Our current situation requires that we care for our citizens, our natural resources, our community and our children's future. Sustainability is not just a buzz word; it permeates our culture and is acknowledged as a critically important goal and moral imperative at all levels of government as well as in our personal lives. The city has a very active Sustainability Advisory Board because of it.

This is indeed a long, complex and somewhat costly process, but it has been open, and clear, and the public has been involved at all levels. I encourage council to move ahead to the next step in the process. The Vision has been developed, given a strong thumbs-up by the public, and we need to move on.

Thank you.
Nancy Gronowski