

Comp Plan Update Comments
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May 22, 2013

I have the following comments on how the comp plan is being completed and how we find ourselves in this state. Much of the effort of the CAC has changed in focus since council asked the LO interim staff to identify those elements that are not land use related, and do something with them, which will be determined later. It is not clear at this point exactly how much will be removed and how that content will be addressed. I would like to think that not all of the hard work of the citizens and the CAC will be disregarded and disrespected; however, I'm not optimistic given what has transpired so far.

Some people think this has been orchestrated by the Interim City Manager, who was hired in a less than transparent manner by a mayor who was elected by the slimmest of majorities, who then hired an interim planning director to rewrite the plan with no input from the long-range planners who have worked with the CAC for nearly three years to update the plan, and who then prepared a budget that eliminated most of those planners. This does not inspire confidence that the citizens' voices and the CAC input will be heard.

Regarding the basic rationale for the updated comp plan, some on council have indicated that they do not value the vision and value statements that were developed by the citizens. It is critical to retain the vision and values of the citizens. These statements are their expressions of what they want their city to be in the future. Even though Lake Oswego is generally developed, citizens know that change is going occur over the next 25 years. Our population is aging, the climate is changing, regulations have changed, we are losing school enrollment, we need to protect our natural resources and provide city services. Council needs to remember that all parts of the new vision statement were well supported by the community and are the basis for all that follows in the updated comp plan. Our citizens expect their city staff and administration to help them achieve their new vision for LO, not disregard it.

The plan currently being developed has continuity with past plans and provides direction to meet current and future needs. It is a comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, forward-thinking document. It recognizes trends, promotes modest growth in the right places, and attempts to provide certainty as to where and how change will occur. It defines and protects our resources whether natural, residential, industrial or social.

While council makeup has changed in the last few months, the general makeup of the city has not, and while some in LO may want a 'broader citizen perspective', it is difficult to imagine a more inclusive process with more opportunities for citizen input than the one we are involved in.

I urge the CAC to complete the work that it has started and for council to allow that to happen, keeping the best interests of the whole community in mind.