

Schroeder, Kathy



From: susan rasmussen <sprazz@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2016 12:01 PM
To: Cnty 2016 Comp Plan, Stewart, Jeanne, Olson, Julie (Councilor), Boldt, Marc, Madore, David, Mielke, Tom
Subject: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION and COORDINATION

Please include these comments in the official public record for the 2016 Clark County Comprehensive Plan Update

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION and COORDINATION

The term "public participation" implies that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process, and an opportunity to influence the decision.

It is a requirement written in GMA law that, "early and continuous public participation," be employed throughout the process of the local comprehensive plan and the supporting regulations. County government has a duty to, "establish and broadly disseminate procedures **and assure that a broad variety of citizens can learn about, become engaged in and influence decisions about local actions.**"

The Goals of Public Participation:

- Enhances the quality of planning by incorporating a wide variety of information and perspectives
- Allows communities to make decisions based on shared values and engages citizens in the ownership of local land use challenges and solutions
- Educates and empowers citizens
- Supports swift and efficient project implementation
- Ensures that good plans remain intact over time
- Fosters a sense of community, and trust in government

Quoted directly from the Department of Commerce

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. has intentionally provided hundreds of testimonies, contained in the public record over 3 years, concerning issues about our unresolved compliance to our court actions, the advancement of an "unauthorized formula", property rights denied equal standing among the other 13 GMA planning goals, improperly zoned resource lands, inflated numbers for the rural vacant buildable lands analysis, unrealistic urban/rural ratios that defy reality, the predominance of non-conforming lots that fail to define the county's rural character, failing to acknowledge the shifts in agricultural trends, failing to acknowledge updates in the state current use taxation program for 5 acres of trees, failing to offer a broad range of alternative plans, and using a process that is consistently exclusionary for landowners and rural communities.

Most disturbing, is the County's failure to acknowledge any of CCCU's hundreds of important testimonies regarding issues concerning the economies and culture of rural property owners and rural communities in the proposed comprehensive plan.

There are four possible reasons for ignoring CCCU's testimonies:

1. Clark County Citizens United never provided public testimony, never had conversations with the Planning Staff, and never spoke with the Councilors to influence policy directives to elevate rural issues.

- 2 Issues surrounding rural land owners and rural communities are deemed irrelevant by staff and Councilors Therefore, rural land owner concerns are not worthy of consideration in the writing of the Clark County Comprehensive Plan
- 3 Clark County rural landowners are not tax-paying citizens and therefore not worthy of the benefits associated with elected representation by the Board of Councilors, and not worthy of upholding the Democratic process
- 4 The staff are inappropriately influencing public policy decisions and undermining the work of the lawfully elected County Councilors This action greatly impairs the public process

The question is, "Why is CCCU's large body of testimony ignored in the Comprehensive Plan?" The Board of County Councilors are the elected officials It is their duty to follow the laws **If there is anything that disadvantages the rural property owners and their issues, the entire BOCC should be concerned.**

Thank you for your consideration,
Susan Rasmussen for
Clark County Citizens United, Inc

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10