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to susan rasmussen

Carols testimony

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September 22, 2015

As a representatives of Clark County Citizens United, Inc., I recently attended the Clark County Planning Commission hearing and deliberations on September 17, 2015. This hearing was to be in response to testimony that was received by the commission on September 3 and September 10, in a joint hearing with the Clark County Board of Councilors. The public understood that the Planning Commission would only be considering testimony submitted verbally at these two hearings and written, until 4:00 PM on September 17, 2015. On September 16, 2015 at 5:41 PM, I sent written testimony, via an e-mail, which was addressed to the Planning Commission for their review of the DSEIS in the September 17th hearing. They never saw it and what I sent was not in the testimony that was given to the Planning Commission.


This is not a surprise to me. Two of the Planning Commission members complained at the beginning of the hearing that they had just gotten a packet of testimony via courier the night before, and didn't have time to read it. They suggested they needed more time to go through the testimony. But ,attorney, Christine Cook advised them that was not possible. With that, they proceeded with the deliberations. At the break, CCCU discovered the rest of the testimony, up to September 17, was in a packet on a cart in the room. Since my testimony should have been in that packet, I looked to see if it was there. It was not. Some of the public record information in that packet was of interest to CCCU, so I retained the packet for later review. The Planning Commission should not have proceeded with the deliberations, until they had reviewed all of the limited information, as that was the whole purpose for the hearing. The GMA does not allow for this type of flawed public process and participation. What happened at the Planning Commission hearing was not meaningful to the process and the Commission was just "winging it," with little to support their decisions.

The following are a few highlights of the hearing.

- * Mr. Euler said 60 to 70 percent of the landowners want the ability to reduce their property size.
 - * Mr. Bender wants to slow down the process.
 - * Mr. Barca claims a full build out of Alt I would cost a billion dollars. (CCCU notes that equals 50 million dollars a year for twenty years, and most of that cost would be bore by the landowner)
- Ms. Quiring said it was not fair that those who live in the city are trying to dictate lifestyles of those in rural areas.....pro-rural rights folks, which appeared to have been majority in the hearings, have been saying they wanted a voice in this process.
- * Mr. Wright was offended by the cities asking that a buffer be created around them to prevent themselves from being boxed in.
 - * Mr. Johnson said he was told by a county councilor that it doesn't matter what people say, it's just feelings.That counts.

So once again, as was pointed out by the courts in the 1994 Comprehensive Plan, the public participation process for the 2016 update under the GMA, is flawed. A review of the process, since the councilors first work sessions on the update, demonstrates that the public has had very little knowledge of what is proposed in the Plan and what is going to happen to their land. This is not acceptable under the GMA.

Sincerely,


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