

Hello to all commissions and committees and their members:

I'm addressing you because I care about Petaluma, our community, and making it the best it can be. Now, I know we're all busy, but let's take a moment to talk about something that can really make a difference – communication.

We've got some incredible projects and programs happening in our city, but sometimes it feels like not everyone knows the facts, or only knows incomplete or inaccurate information. That's a shame because when we're all on the same page, we can accomplish amazing things together.

So, here's my pitch – let's work together to step up our communication game. I'm not talking about some fancy, high-tech solution. I'm talking about good old-fashioned collaboration. Let's break down those bureaucratic walls and get all our city commissions and committees on the same page, **talking to each other**.

Imagine if every citizen knew what projects were in the pipeline, what programs were available, and how they could get involved. It's not just about transparency; it's about making our community stronger. Informed citizens are engaged citizens, and engaged citizens build a resilient and vibrant city.

Now, I get it. We all have our specific areas of focus, and it's easy to get tunnel vision. But imagine if the Planning Commission knew what the Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission or the Senior Advisory Committee was up to, and vice versa. We could find synergies, share resources, and amplify our impact.

Let's not make it a bureaucratic nightmare. I'm not asking for endless meetings or complicated procedures. I'm talking about a simple, regular exchange of information, a comprehensive educational campaign which would increase everyone's understanding of what is happening and what possible changes might be afoot. Maybe a quarterly meeting of stakeholders, or a newsletter or a community bulletin where each commission and committee can highlight what they're working on. Simple, right?

And hey, let's not forget about technology. In this age of social media and instant communication, there's no reason we can't leverage these tools to keep our citizens in the loop. A tweet here, a Facebook post there – it all adds up.

I know change can be a bit scary, but this is about making Petaluma even better than it already is. It's about empowering our citizens and fostering a sense of community. So, let's break down those silos, open up those lines of communication, and show everyone that Petaluma is a city where the people are actively involved in shaping the future, not just reacting when there is a divisive issue. Together, we can make Petaluma the shining example of community engagement. All that I am asking for is for each of our commissions and committees to make an effort to get on board and do this!

Nickola Frye

Senior Advisory Committee, Chairperson

Rebuilding Together Petaluma, Secretary Board of Directors

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