

Suzanne Terry

From: sterry@cityofpetaluma.org
Subject: Comment-Jan. 31 Measure U Oversight

From: susan kirks [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2024 12:29 PM
To: Suzanne Terry <sterry@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Comment-Jan. 31 Measure U Oversight

Agenda Item 2 - Comment

Please provide this comment to Committee members.

4.18.140 B. (Section 1 - I wasn't able to locate a Section 2) Ballot Measure to Establish Ordinance

Measure U passed by Petaluma voters includes the description of the oversight body. The responsibility of the oversight committee is to "review and report"...,not review and comment on staff reporting as the City Treasurer is describing

Interestingly, in the Ballot Measure Arguments in Favor of and Opposed to the Measure that went to voters, the City Attorney used the language of "review and comment on...", similar to the Treasurer's descriptive memo/report.

As I attended prior Committee meetings before applying to be appointed to the Committee, I was surprised by the staff basically managing the Oversight Committee's process and the Committee seeming to have few boundaries from City staff.

If you are able to review the actual Measure U that was passed by voters, it is clear your Committee is mandated to be independent with access to City staff and resources for your work and the Committee is to review and report to the City Council.

While I reapplied to the Committee for a long-term seat, hoping to continue with you as a Committee member, I received only one vote from Dr. Pocekay.

I'm unclear if our current elected leaders want to follow requirements of Measure U for the independent Citizens Oversight Committee. I hope so. This is the will of the voters.

However, in my experience, there tends to be too much authority placed with City staff. And the role of the Citizens Oversight Committee is stated in the Measure. The City staff is not charged with directing you as a Committee, but is responsible for providing administrative support and for providing required reports to you for review and comment. Then, your Committee IS mandated to report to the City Council.

Lastly, the end of fiscal year revenue expenditures report should be scheduled before the end of January. As a Committee, I encourage you to request this report from City staff with a meeting by November of the current fiscal year.

The mid-year current fiscal year report with meeting could be late January or early February.

For the Committee's annual report to the City Council, you would have a time period of November to February to prepare and provide the report to the City Council for the prior fiscal year ended on June 30.

The Committee would then receive the current mid-year report as noted in late January or February.

These suggestions are given, as you can empower yourselves as mandated to make requests and set your meeting schedule and report schedule, with information in reports provided to you by City staff.

Having shared what I hope is clarification, I am no longer an appointed member of your Committee. Had I received the long-term appointment, these would have been my suggestions to support your mandate and ensure trust by voters.

Sincerely,

Susan Kirks.