

Please replace comment just submitted with this revision April 9 Agenda Item 3

Susan Kirks

Fri 4/5/2024 6:59 PM

To:Orozco, Uriel <uorozco@cityofpetaluma.org>

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Hello,

I was editing my comment and inadvertently pressed the Send button prior to completing the comment.

Please discard the comment I just submitted for Agenda Item 3 for the Planning Commission on April 9 - and replace with this comment:

(Thank you.)

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

Regarding the discussion about amending Section 3.303 of your Rules and Regulations, this proposal appears inappropriate.

A Planning Commissioner's term of 4 years is a fairly long period of time. The opportunity during that time to serve for a year as Commission Chair offers equality and balance in your responsibilities. This structure also supports political balance.

In my experience, attending your meetings for many years and/or viewing your meetings when virtual meeting participation is not available, the Vice Chair normally accepts that role in anticipation of becoming the Chair when the Chair's term of one year concludes.

Who is your Vice Chair at this time? That person, having accepted the role of Vice Chair, would be anticipated to be nominated and move into the Chair's role when the current Chair's term expires.

If the Vice Chair declines the nomination to assume the role of Chair, the position should be offered to another Commissioner.

Ideally, those appointed to the Planning Commission are qualified and bring skill sets to your tasks of reviews and recommendations. In our city, however, politics and special interests frequently enter the larger picture of Planning Commission appointments and, thus, it is relevant to have policies and processes that are balanced and serve everyone.

It would be helpful for the public and equity if your Commission requested resumption of virtual meeting access and participation. This would provide the ability for broader public participation and comment on important issues that come before you. Initiating this request to put forth to the City Council would also reflect your interest as a Commission in serving everyone in the community in support of equity.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit a public comment on Agenda Item 3. In summary, the service for 1 year as Commission Chair is a policy that is not advisable to modify.

I'm interested to know what political group or individuals created this proposal and to what end, such as perhaps proposals in the upcoming General Plan update the majority of the community would oppose.

Please fulfill your roles as individuals who are appointed to serve the entire Petaluma community and make best recommendations, transcending politics. The Planning Commission structure of 4-year terms with 1-year Commission Chair terms is optimal for the City of Petaluma, without question.

Thank you,

Susan Kirks
Petaluma