

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

Susan Kirks [REDACTED]

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

## Public Comment Regarding Item #4

Jane Hamilton [REDACTED]

Wed 4/17/2024 7:31 PM

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

Cc: Blake Hooper <bmhooper1@gmail.com>

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Dear Chair Hooper and Planning Commissioners,

I strongly object to the staff recommendation to change PC rules to allow the chair of the Planning Commission to serve 2 consecutive terms. This change is not reasonable nor is it defensible. Every member of the commission is capable of serving their turn as chair and they deserve the respect of being allowed to do so. To change the rules now and say it is because of the General Plan is a disservice to the public.

Whom does this actually serve? Is it that staff would prefer to have the same person as chair throughout the GP process as a matter of their convenience?

Thinking it through logically, Chair Hooper will most likely be leaving his post as planning Commissioner due to his run and anticipated win for a position on the council. Wouldn't it be more reasonable to appoint a new chair in June at the usual time and have that person serve for an entire year instead of changing horses midstream? Or is there some other reason that staff would prefer to have the chair remain the same for the next 7 months? Something here is not adding up.

This reads as a political move being made by staff for reasons other than those openly stated. As a former council member who was once denied her opportunity to be Vice Mayor by her fellow council members for their political reasons, ( I wanted the city to keep Lafferty and they wanted to sell it) I can tell you, moves like this do not generally go well for those hoping to avert normal process to achieve their desired outcome.

Please leave the rules as they are and allow the process to unfold as it is meant to do.

Respectfully,  
Jane Hamilton

**Fw: 04/23, Item#4, Planning Commision Rules & Regs Change Chair/Vice Chair Terms**

Andrew Trippel <atrippel@cityofpetaluma.org>

Tue 4/23/2024 9:12 AM

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

Hi Uriel,

Please publish Ms. Olsen's comment to the meeting item's public record.

Thanks,

Andrew

**Andrew Trippel, AICP**

Planning Manager, M-Group Consulting  
Planner serving the City of Petaluma  
City of Petaluma | Community Development  
[Schedule a Virtual Counter Appointment](#)  
atrippel@cityofpetaluma.org



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**From:** Veronica Olsen [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 9:34 PM

**To:** roger mcerlane <rogermcerlane@mac.com>; jcthompson@cityofpetaluma.org <jcthompson@cityofpetaluma.org>; Hooper, Blake <Bmhooper1@gmail.com>; Darren Racusen <darrenracusen@gmail.com>; heidibauer2000@gmail.com <heidibauer2000@gmail.com>; Andrew Trippel <atrippel@cityofpetaluma.org>; jessicamoz@gmail.com <jessicamoz@gmail.com>; rwhisman@yahoo.com <rwhisman@yahoo.com>; -- City Clerk <cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org>

**Subject:** 04/23, Item#4, Planning Commision Rules & Regs Change-Chair/Vice Chair Terms

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Dear Planning Commission, Council Liaison Cader-Thompson, and Planning Staff,  
I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Planning staff's proposal to increase the terms for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Commission from one to two during the General Plan period.

I understand this proposal is well-intentioned, but I urge you to consider the democratic values at stake. A term change would not result in any functional or administrative benefit as the Chair and Vice Chair represent the commission and are there to facilitate and serve the commission as a body. Term limits, on the other hand, help distribute leadership opportunities more evenly among qualified

individuals, and these limits are an essential aspect of our democratic system that ensures accountability and prevents a perception of bias.

I know that you have the community's best interests at heart, and I respectfully urge you to consider these concerns when making your decision.

Best regards,

Veronica Olsen