

Kappel, Shelly

From: Susan Kirks <susankirks@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:45 PM
To: Kappel, Shelly
Subject: General Public Comment for Climate Action Commission meeting, April 13

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Dear Members of the Commission,

I would appreciate your Commission advocating for **resuming Zoom-connected meetings** for the benefit of members of the public and ensuring your Commission's decisions and activities can continue to be interactive.

Being able to view a meeting via Zoom and participate in public comment broaden the availability of public meetings to our voters and residents.

We need more public input, not less.

Could you address this with the City staff to determine how to staff a meeting and resume the Zoom connection?

Many cities and communities are continuing to offer hybrid meetings beyond just a City Council meeting.

We all want your Commission to fulfill the potential of addressing climate-related issues in Petaluma. Not being able to view and participate via Zoom is very limiting. I have been hearing in the community so many comments about how discontinuing Zoom meetings for Commissions and Committees is causing a serious deficit in public participation. Thus, I wanted to pass my personal concern along with the concerns of others along to you.

What would budgetary needs be for staffing and providing Zoom connections, which the City of Petaluma had been providing for quite some time? I believe there are funds available to cover the expense and the expense is definitely one that is justified and supports broad public participation.

We definitely need more public participation, not less.

Could you consider agendizing this topic for discussion and possible recommendation to the City Council? If I were in a position of authority, I would prioritize resumption of Zoom for Climate Action Commission and Planning Commission, and then review and potentially implement PBAC and Parks and Recreation Commission, if there needed to be limitations. But, frankly, Zoom for all Commission and Committee meetings would support a robust and evolving participation in our City government activities.

And, as noted, we need more of this, not less.

Thanks,

Susan Kirks