



GOOSE HOLLOW FOOTHILLS LEAGUE
2257 NW RALEIGH STREET PORTLAND, OR 97210 503-823-4288

July 31, 2019

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioners Chloe Eudaly, Jo Ann Hardesty, Amanda Fritz, and Nick Fish
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

RE: OCCL 3.96 Code Committee

By unanimous vote of our board, I have been asked to send this letter to your attention.

The Goose Hollow Foothills League (GHFL) expresses its deep concern and disappointment over the lack of public and equitable process that has characterized the work of the Office of Community and Civic Life's 3.96 Code Committee. This concern is shared by practically all of Portland Neighborhood Associations, as exemplified by the out-flowing of public testimony at the 26 June 2019 Code Committee meeting.

The process that has been pursued by the bureau has borne no relation to the careful study and involvement that occurred the last time changes to the code were contemplated. That was completed in August 2005 after 4 years of study and gathering input, via the "Guidelines Review, Empowerment and Assessment Task Force." There were also yearly "neighborhood summits" at which affected groups and individuals could give their input and engage in dialogue & discourse --and these summits were open to all interested citizens and groups, not restricted in any way to Neighborhood Association personnel.

The process this year instead resembled a rush to judgment, without notice provided to Portland's Neighborhood Associations over matters that concerned them deeply, and with committee agendas that would set aside 5 minutes for public comment --which might enable two or three citizens to speak, had they been aware of the meetings. Even the flawed West Quadrant Plan SAC hearings provided more than that. Minimizing public notice bespeaks disregard for democratic process and inclusiveness.

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Oregon Public Meetings Law requires specific notice to affected parties and individuals having demonstrated interest. Even if such an outreach were attempted at this late date, it would not be sufficient to reach 95 Neighborhood Associations that typically meet once a month –a disenfranchisement of their elected boards and their memberships.

OCCL should be modeling good public communication, even if it wants to eliminate Open Meetings and Records standards for the organizations it serves. This is arguably the most important policy issue ever addressed by this bureau-- and the public outreach effort has been the most meager and the least inclusive.

Concerning OCCL's attempt to do away with Open Meetings and Records standards, we cannot believe the people of Portland want their representative institutions, such as Neighborhood Associations, not to have open meetings, not to maintain a record of their actions, and not to allow press coverage of their doings. Can you as elected representatives believe that or entertain a proposal to do away with those?

We believe that these deeply flawed proceedings should be reset and reopened.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy J. Prince". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy J. Prince, Ph.D.
President, Goose Hollow Foothills League

Copy: Suk Rhee, Director, OCCL