

**Subject:** "Extensive" Public Input

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**From:** Marjorie Checkoway  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 12:43 PM  
**To:** Lenart, Brett <[BLenart@a2gov.org](mailto:BLenart@a2gov.org)>  
**Subject:** "Extensive" Public Input

Hi, Brett, thanks for your work with the City. I realize that you have a lot of players vying for your attention. In your comments and materials, you mention extensive public input: 3,000 here and so many there. What method did you use to get this feedback? Is it a random sample of residents?

Please realize that all the residents I have encountered--at meetings, in public space, across neighborhoods and age groups and SES, have not heard of this important Comprehensive Plan and the plan for zoning changes. How can this be?! People who are very engaged in the City, as volunteers and leaders of community projects, agencies, initiatives, etc. have not heard of this?! My experience is duplicated by many others. You understand that most citizens are not on the City and/or Planning Commission website.

There was a one-hour public meeting with the Third Ward Council Reps. Everyone was itching to share views about the Comprehensive Plan. The meeting was restricted to talking about potholes and sewer lines because a city staff person was there. Frustrating and a waste of time for most. So much for listening to concerns.

An example of the City not communicating: I received the April City newsletter, a great opportunity to publicize the plan for free and with little added effort, just a link and paragraph in the newsletter: nothing about it.

Your perception and that being spread by the Council and the Commission that most people know about this is not accurate. You have heard this from public forums. The public needs to be informed and involved. The Council is supposed to represent us, the citizens. We know that the Planning Commission is stacked with development folks, landlords, and those who contributed to the Mayor, and who do not represent the views of the citizens. You have seen and heard this at meetings. The Council is a monolith, all on the same bandwagon. Unfortunately, people didn't run for office because they knew they couldn't compete financially with the Mayor's PAC. So much for diversity. And I am a very progressive Dem, but one who does homework, sees the big picture of the implications of decisions, and who actually thinks diversity of views, even when they are not my own, strengthens decision making! How can we restore a democratic process where the citizens' views are truly represented? Please stop saying that there has been adequate/extensive community input.

It is discouraging to experience Trumpland on the local level.

Thanks for reading and considering this.

Margie Checkoway