

Subject: Comprehensive plan feedback

Linda Dabrowski

Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 11:54 AM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Cc: Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Akmon, Dharma <DAkmon@a2gov.org>

Subject: Comprehensive plan feedback

Dear Planning Commission,

It appears that you all may have modified the timing of the public engagement sessions on the comprehensive plan (pulled ahead from August to April/May). I encourage you to widely publicize these sessions and ensure that they are appropriately identified as opportunities for residents to provide input on the comprehensive plan as it may impact the zoning of their property from single family home to something allowing a variety of residences in various shapes and sizes. I would also encourage you to collect quantitative data via surveys distributed to households. I find the consultant-driven engagement sessions are designed to be fun and attractive, but the information collected is often insubstantial and doesn't get at the bottom line issues. Here the bottom line for homeowners is - we may develop a plan that changes your zoning, which will impact your home and your neighborhood. Please make this clear and solicit feedback specific to this issue.

I would also like to touch upon a previously expressed concern about how real and perceived conflicts of interest are managed by the planning commission members. It is well known that the chair, Wonwee Lee, is a highly successful commercial real estate professional. He is also now working for a Song family business - and the Song family appears to be quite active in local politics - contributing money to many of our current city council members as well as the mayor. How will the real and perceived conflict of interest (and here I'll note that in the business and non-profit world, perceived conflicts are treated with the same seriousness as real conflicts), in leading the planning commission and weighing in on decisions about the comprehensive plan? As the outline of the plan appears to have significant upside for the development community, residents deserve to know how the real and perceived conflict of interest will be managed.

Finally, I want to strongly push back on planning commission member Lisa Disch's recent assertion in a newsletter that single family zoning is akin to exclusionary zoning. I 1,000% object to such labeling. The nature of zoning is exclusionary - otherwise we would have businesses, homes, all jumbled together. Single family home zoning supports neighborhood community, character, and cohesion. I invite you all to walk the streets of Lower Burns Park and see the variety of housing within our neighborhood - small lots with condominiums, apartment buildings, and homes (owner and renter occupied by a variety of ages and household compositions). We are not exclusionary. We have a neighborhood email group, annual neighborhood gatherings, and we look out for one another.

-Linda Dabrowski

Ann Arbor homeowner since 1997

