

**From:** Julie Ritter

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2023 9:35 AM

**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@a2gov.org](mailto:CityCouncil@a2gov.org)>; Planning <[Planning@a2gov.org](mailto:Planning@a2gov.org)>

**Subject:** Comprehensive Plan Request

Dear City Council, Planning Commission and Planning Department,

It is good to see that the City is moving forward with an updated Comprehensive Plan after a pause since December, 2019.

The three of us were Ward Representatives on the committee that was established in early 2019 to review the consultants who were finalists, to carry out the Comprehensive Plan Update at that time. In December of 2019 the Ward Representatives, plus the Mayor's Representative, made presentations to City Council and submitted our final Report. At that time the choice of the consultant, the approval of the contract, and the ensuing Comprehensive Plan were first postponed and then tabled until a work session could be scheduled and held. Then the pandemic shut down the City and so much else. Over time, that process lapsed.

Now that the City is moving forward, we request that you think about some of the things in our Report that are still pertinent. To that end, we are attaching a summary of some of the still-relevant suggestions, along with a copy of the Report itself.

We know the new RFP is not the same as the one we considered in 2019. We would like you to understand the spirit of the Report that we filed. That spirit is the result of the coming together of very different points of view, different areas of expertise and different interests. Yet we found a way to come together and create a productive proposal. This spirit of coming together, even over disagreements, of working through objections, is something that the current process can certainly benefit from.

Our group talked a lot about values and came up with a list that we felt was important to our process and our final Report. The values embedded in our Report, values that allowed us to work together at that time, and that we hope will be applicable now, include:

- Transparency
- Measurability
- Inclusion
- Diversity
- Sensitivity
- Expertise
- Accountability
- Sustainability
- Curiosity about the process and solutions
- Receptiveness
- Invitation of new input and ideas
- Ease of Use
- Thoroughness
- Professional Best Practices

The current RFP calls for including a wide range of citizens in the engagement process including “potentially aspiring community members”. We encourage the City and the Consultant to treat this demographic even handedly and not to overvalue it compared to current residents, students, employees, commuters and other people that make our city the vibrant place it is today.

We are looking forward to the new Comprehensive Plan process and participating in it. We appreciate the large amount of work that has gone into getting to this point, and the even larger amount of work going forward.

Respectfully,

Julie Ritter – Ward 1

Wendy Carman – Ward 2

Dianne Brainard – Ward 4