



San Tomas Area Community Coalition

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City of Campbell
70 N. First Street
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August 18, 2015

Attn: Mark Linder, City Manager
Paul Kermoyan, Director Community Development Department
City Council Members

Subj: Agenda Item 16. City Council Meeting August 18, 2015
Receive Report on City Council Questions Relative to the General Plan Advisor Committee (GPAC) Roles and Responsibilities, the General Plan Update Process Approach, Approve the GPAC Bylaws, and Review a Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to Hire a Consultant (PLN2012-207)

Dear Council Members, Director Kermoyan and City Manager Linder:

Citizens feel that the selection process for the GPAC did not include fair representation of the neighborhoods, and that it was a rubber stamp of a process without full consideration.

Members of the STACC neighborhood association have told the board members that they feel that the community representatives on the GPAC committee should not be individuals who have strong ties to the city and to developers due to their previous positions with the City of Campbell, or participation on previous committees.

While it is true they bring excellent experience due to their years of service, those same experiences will have influenced their vision. As such, these persons most certainly have knowledge and information, and may well have biases developed as a result of the knowledge and information received while in office. While their willingness to volunteer is exemplary, their presence denies other citizens who also want to be participants in the process the opportunity to contribute to the future of their city.

There is something to be said for allowing enthusiastic citizens who come in without preconceived notions to participate in the process. This gives a “tabula rasa”, or clean slate with people who can bring fresh eyes, and fresh minds to the problems of developing a General Plan that works to ensure that it will be a strong foundation document for building the future of our city.

Questions we were asked, and that we hope the Council will address tonight include:

- Clarify the role of alternates, in respect to their participation in all GPAC meetings.
- Who are the city Staff members, if any, who are part of the GPAC?
- Who are additional participants? There were a number of people who attended the July 20th, 2015 workshop who are not listed as GPAC members.
- Are there notes taken or other memorandum available to the public after each meeting?
- What is the schedule for the General Plan meetings and what time frame is the city adhering to?
- And finally, are the General Plan review meetings open to the public to observe?

We would like to urge you to consider reopening the selection process for the GPAC, by adding more community member positions to allow for a more balanced representation of all the regions of the City of Campbell.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Kiehtreiber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey Kiehtreiber
President