**Jim Fitzgerald**

**6942 Via Estrada**

**La Jolla, CA 92037**

**858-456-6255**

**jimfitz1@pacbell.net**

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President Kane and LJCPA Trustees:

Item #8.1: LJCPA Letter re: CPG Reform Proposals @ 12/6/22 LJCPA Meeting

Based on my 16 years experience as a member of the LJCPA, these proposals, if adopted, are an existential threat to the CPGs and the CPG structure for the reasons specified in the LJCPA letter on this subject.

The demise of the CPGs would be a tragedy in light of the many, many positive contributions that CPGs have made to the City and to the quality-of-life in their neighborhoods for almost 50 years.

What is equally disturbing is that I believe that both the devastating consequences of these draconian proposals and the CPGs’ universal negative reaction to them were foreseeable by their author from the beginning—based on his experience and based on his actions.

* First: Based on his experience.

1. The author is a long-time member of a CPG. He is well aware that CPGs are: 1) 100% dependent on volunteer efforts; 2) have very-limited financial resources, primarily small, individual donations, to sustain their operations; and 3) rely on the City for critical administrative, compliance, technical, financial, and legal guidance and support.
2. In light of the author’s experience and these facts, it would be hard to avoid foreseeing the devastating consequences of simultaneously imposing substantially increased costs, workload, and responsibilities on the CPG volunteers and then abruptly severing all City support for them.

Second: Based on his actions.

1. Keeping the CPGs and the CPC “in the dark” while the proposals were being developed. During the 10 months during which these proposals were being developed, the CPGs were never engaged regarding how best to address the concerns raised about the CPGs nor asked to provide feedback regarding the content and consequences of these proposals as they were evolving.
2. Waiting until the last minute to reveal these proposals to the CPGs. The first time that this package of proposals ”saw the light of day” was when they were presented to the CPC on November 30th. Even more upsetting, the package was presented as essentially a *fait accompli*, which would be going to the City Council for approval in 2 months in February. This effectively leaves no time to develop and to evaluate substantive alternatives.
3. I attended the November 30th CPC meeting. I would characterize the overall reaction of the group as a very predictable and understandable combination of shock and outrage at both the content and compressed timing of the proposed changes.

This is no way to do business. The proposed CPG reforms are an egregious affront to all CPGs. As a result, I urge the Trustees to vote NO on these proposals by approving the LJCPA letter.

Respectfully,

Jim Fitzgerald