Housing and Land Use Committee

Hon. Vivian Moreno, Chair; VivianMoreno@sandiego.gov

Hon. Joe La Cava, Vice Chair; JoeLaCava@sandiego.gov

Hon. Stephen Whitburn; StephenWhitburn@sandiego.gov

Hon. Chris Cate; ChrisCate@sandiego.gov

City Administration Building, 10th Floor

202 C Street

San Diego, CA 92101

June 2, 2022

Dear Councilmember {one to each member}

At its June 2, 2022 regular meeting, the La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJ CPA) discussed the revised proposed reforms of Planning Groups presented to the CPC at its March 10, 2022 meeting.

The LJCPA appreciates that the revised proposal provides for staff support for the CPGs, stipends for CPGs and the CPC, meeting place accommodations, availability of checking accounts, continuance as local advisory for MADs, templates for required attachments, and a City website for some records. It continues indemnification and training on Brown Act requirements and project review.

However, many concerns CPGs raised have not been addressed:

1. The $500 annual stipend for CPGs is welcome but will not cover the expense of maintaining the required websites (i.e. software, hosting, upkeep, and updating the websites several times a month).
2. The 2-year break in service after terming out will deprive CPGs of expertise and historical information. Some CPGs find it difficult to find enough interested community members with the current one-year break in service.
3. The removal of the current appeals fee waiver for CPGs will essentially eliminate the possibility of any CPG in the City appealing projects. The current waiver gives CPGs the ability to have concerns about projects heard by another City entity.
4. The removal of “meeting attendance” requirements to vote in annual elections and to establish eligibility to run for voting seats.
5. CPGs will no longer be able to use the City website to make agendas and documents publicly available in conformance with the Brown Act.

Additionally the Planning Commission has recommended for approval a draft amendment to the SDMC section 112.0503 (Process Two Decisions). This amendment removes the provision that an additional 20 days can be added to the 11 day minimum time that staff has to wait before acting on a Notice of Future Decision. This will impact Coastal CPGs who review applications for Coastal Development Permits. CPGs meet once a month and also may have subcommittee review of projects.

The LJCPA urges the Land Use and Housing Committee to make additional changes to the reform proposals to address these concerns raised by CPGs citywide.

The Land Use and Housing Committee should also recommend a City Charter Amendment that will not impose such wholesale changes to CPG procedures that have been in place for many years.

The LJPCA in its letter of December 28, 2021 described many of its concerns with the proposed reform of Community Planning Groups. It is attached here for your further review.

Thank you for your consideration,

Diane Kane, President

La Jolla Community Planning Association

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