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[EXT SENDER] Bonner County Planning Commission/Comp Plan

1 message

Irv or Carol <irvorcarol2011@gmail.com>
To: planning@bonnercountyid.gov

Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:02 AM

8/2/2022

Dear Members of Bonner County Planning Commission,

Thank you for your service and commitment to our county! I have carefully reviewed the recent work you have done on the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of our Comprehensive Plan. *I particularly appreciate the Summary Notes from your discussions.* I shall continue to follow your work as it develops.

My husband and I have been property owners in this county since 2000 and we live here full time. A draft of Title 12 Land Use Regulations was released in 2006. County Commissioners provided workshops around the county to introduce the regulations. Several public hearings were held. Planning Department personnel and Commissioners were available to answer questions from the public. We attended and found it very helpful in understanding the Comp Plan and its relationship to our Land Use Code, Title 12.

All went well until an anonymous letter of disinformation was circulated to waterfront property owners. This created a storm of criticism and misunderstanding. The County Commissioners then invited interested members of the public to form an ad hoc committee to pursue consensus on areas of concern. I was a member of that group. As I recall, we worked for nine months to achieve an acceptable collaborative result. The Commissioners accepted our work unanimously in November 2008.

In the meantime, Bonner County Planning Department has had an alarming turnover in personnel. I believe there is no one left in the department with historical institutional knowledge of planning in this county.

When Milton Ollerton became Planning Director, he initiated the sub-area planning groups. My husband and I attended every meeting of the Sagle group for a year and a half. Suddenly, due to a member's social media outreach, dozens of new people showed up and the process was changed to an appointed committee and those of us who had participated for so long never received an explanation or update. I can say that during all the months we met, **maintaining the rural character and natural resources of Bonner County was the single most important goal of the group.**

Our last Comp Plan/ Title 12 update had more than ample public input. I was impressed that it truly was democracy in action, even if messy, tiresome, and frustrating at times.

This current Comp Plan update feels very rushed in comparison to what we saw in 2004-5. In recent years there has been an increase in public interest in land use and zoning and concern regarding some decisions made by County Commissioners on those issues. I caution and encourage you to take the time now to get the data, science, and public input

needed for this Plan to guide our land use regulations, the vital backbone of our county's future.

Most sincerely,

Carol Jenkins

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