

12/14/2021

Item 5B

Melissa Lee

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From: danieliz1@yahoo.com  
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 11:33 PM  
To: Mayor and Council  
Subject: Fw: Comment on Item 5B - meeting of 14Dec2021

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This is mostly my same comment from when the item was first on the agenda November 9th. However, I just noticed a draft ordinance which starts with a statement that the committee approved it unanimously. As a member of the BPAC, I can assure you that this ordinance was never put before the committee, let alone approved unanimously.

The items mentioned below are listed on page 4 of the agenda packet (was page 8 on November 9th).

Sincerely, Diane Harrison 3283 Benton St. Santa Clara, CA 95051 (land of the Ohlone and Muwekma Ohlone people) 408-246-8149 danieliz1@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: danieliz1@yahoo.com <danieliz1@yahoo.com>  
To: City Council <mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov>  
Cc: Teresa O'Neill <teresa.oneillsc@gmail.com>; Hosam Haggag <hhaggag@santaclaraca.gov>  
Sent: Saturday, November 6, 2021, 08:02:21 PM PDT  
Subject: Comment on Item 6C - meeting of 9Nov2021

Dear City Council Members

I was at the Governance & Ethics meeting early this year, and I'd thought we'd made major headway from staff recommendations, but from this item, it looks like you're recommending everything that staff did. (Staff is not perfect, and the ones who attend BPAC meetings don't live in Santa Clara or ride bikes for transportation. I.e. it is not a good idea to assume that everything they say and do is in the best interests of the cycling & walking communities, or even Santa Clarans in general.) Let me take this item by item.

Item 1 is fine.

Item 3 makes no sense. We had 19 applicants for the last election! We are also now taking care of both bicycling and pedestrian issues, so there is plenty of work to go around. We need the people, and there is more than ample interest in the community. So, it makes zero sense to reduce the size of the committee.

Item 5 is also a mistake. Since the Governance & Ethics meeting, I have attended two commission selection meetings. The first was for the redistricting commission, was conducted under the auspices of the city clerk and was as fair as fair can be. (And I say that as one who applied and did not get

selected.) However, ping pong balls make sense for a commission that is only formed, activated, and disbanded every ten years. For every other committee & commission, the existing members of that group know best what they do, what a member needs to know, and what sort of new member would best complement the existing group. The other selection meeting I attended was the HLC. It was horrible. I won't repeat what I emailed you (mayorandcouncil) on October 6th at 4:41pm, but if you don't still have it, I'm happy to re-send.

Item 7 was discussed at the Governance & Ethics meeting. When a councilmember is chair and a voting member of a committee or commission, he/she has too much power -- controlling the meeting, voting in the committee/commission meeting, and voting again at council on our recommendations. When that councilmember is a member of the cycling/walking community and truly has our interests at hearts, such as Teresa O'Neill, it is not so much of an issue (and I, for one, would be more than happy to have her on the committee as a member of the public and then vote her in to be chair), but when that is not the case, instead of making things better for the community, we are spending a great deal of time battling the chair along with a staff often unwilling to help us in our goals as well. Like every other committee and commission, we should be allowed to select our own chair. And while a council representative is encouraged to attend meetings, as a liaison with council, that person should not have a vote or be considered a committee member.

Item 9 is a bit unclear since I believe that they have brought you both what we committee members want along with what they want.

Sincerely, Diane Harrison (currently a BPAC member) 3283 Benton St. Santa Clara, CA 95051 (land of the Ohlone and Muwekma Ohlone people) 408-246-8149 dianeliz1@yahoo.com