

I am bothered by a process that we see at almost every council meeting.

It isn't unique to Santa Clara and this process has probably been in place since god invented council meetings.

When I walk in to a council meeting and see a development project being presented with what seems like glowing admiration of the positive aspects and accommodations I have to look at speaker to know if it is being presented by the developer or our staff.

The staff does a great job presenting and although they try to be impartial it still looks to us like they are acting as the developer's advocate. And I ask myself 'who advocates for the residents?'

I have discussed this with Andrew Crabtree and he points out if they didn't present the project to the council and make a recommendation they would not be doing their job.

This makes sense but I have to say this isn't just my impression. Every resident I have talked to, that has witnessed the staff presentations, has felt the same way. 'Where is our paid for spokesperson?'

This is a very real perception by many, many residents. It comes across as the staff pitching the project to the council.

Many of us would rather see the developer present their own project with the staff follow up with recommendations, relevant comments and answer questions.

At one of the project outreach meetings the staff was presenting the project. The residents wanted to hear from the developer. After what seemed like a prolonged revolt by the residents the developer addressed the residents and things went smoothly. I mention this as an example of the perception I am describing.

Perhaps a process that allows the developer to present the project with the staff following up with their comments and recommendations.

We are asking for something that allows the staff to look more impartial and provide the separation some of us think is needed. It would also allow the developer an opportunity to sell their baby and sound as biased as they please.

At this point I don't feel any group or person is responsible for this process as it stands.

However, if there is no adjustment to the process this would indicate everyone involved it is happy with it.

But just so you know, We're Not.

Thank you.

Howard Myers 8/28/2018

POST MEETING MATERIAL