

## **Oak Park Community Association Meeting- 4/2/09 DOC Streamlining Proposal Notes**

### **David Kwong, Planning Manager presentation:**

- Information continues to evolve as outreach progresses
- Current and proposed process
  - Overlapping processes
- Other jurisdictions data
- Costs
- Consistency with new General Plan, Land Use and Design interdependence- look at projects as a whole not separately
- Hear all issues at one commission
- Overly complex process today
- Review of remaining outreach

### **Questions:**

- What specifically will be eliminated (7 commissioners)?
- What are the mission statements of the design, planning and proposed combined commissions?
- Do all decisions go through the same process?
- Will some current commission decisions be handled by staff?
- How much more is going to go to staff?
- Overly complex process today compared to what?
- Isn't it more appropriate that when complex issues arise we call a joint meeting of the two commissions rather than creating a combined commission?
- Who is asking for this change?
- What percentage of the "customer" is the public?
- Are you coming to the citizens asking what we want or telling us what you are going to do?
- Will City Council listen to our input?

### **Attendee observations, concerns and suggestions:**

- Modify chart to reflect new joint commission
- Huge amount of decisions have already gone to staff, taking public out of the process.
- Proposal should not be segmented
- Handle logic of flow to strengthen clarity
- Combination of input of both commissions along with input from professionals has improved design
- Comparison of other jurisdictions includes sprawled areas and small towns that do not compare with Sacramento
- Times of director's hearings (during work day) restricts public participation due to need for public to take off time from work.
- Concern regarding elimination of public input
- Do not see friends of Oak Park on Planning Commission representing that community.

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- Concern about elimination of noticing
- Will not be able to hold integrity of neighborhood
- Clerks reviewing projects
- Concern about pre-noticing
- Issue is not efficiency regarding decreasing commissioners from 16 to 9, issue is democracy
- Inefficient to have redundant meetings. More commissioners is not necessarily a solution.
- Different issues being muddled together
  - Notification
    - Increase notification and interaction with developers
  - Analogy of combining marketing and production teams with combination of design and zoning functions
- We co-exist with bad projects that have shaped neighborhoods for 100 years
- Inefficient not to have proper experts look at proper issues
- Must have responsible architecture
- When dealing with design and planning would value opinions of a larger group
- Importance of smaller projects also being reviewed by commission
- World class city has good design. Sacramento has a history of accepting all projects
- Reducing the number of commissions would increase errors in design- would value input of more people
- Concerned about too many professional seats on commission- conflict with ties to development community
- Design Commission has specific goals and objectives, combining would be cumbersome
- 20 years in Oak Park- City has disappointed time and time again to this day- trying to protect themselves and their quality of life
- If you are asking for our input, for the most part our answer to this proposal is no- you are not making this more efficient, saving money. You are making it more convoluted
- Too much is happening at one time
- You need to go back to the City Council- this is not going to fly with the public
- Guidelines are not policies or standards. No one needs to adhere to them. Before any change happens guidelines need to be eliminated and replaced with ordinances requiring standards