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From the Desk of  
Allison G. Jackson

March 16, 2007

Thomas Herman  
Humboldt County Planning Commission  
Humboldt County Community Development Services Dept.  
301 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2007

HUMBOLDT COUNTY  
PLANNING DIVISION

Re: General Plan Update - 3-15-07

Dear Commissioner Herman:

Last night I was able for the first time to attend the meeting on the General Plan Update. My attendance was for information only as the Update will most probably effect some of my firm's current and future clients. Towards the middle of the proceeding, I became concerned at what I perceived to be an irregularity in the manner in which the individual running the power point presentation was taking notes for the official record. I do not know who this person is, but he had red hair and was typing a summary of the speakers' comments on the power point display.

At the point I became aware of this irregularity, a young man by the name of Hans Parshall had been speaking to the Commission. I was immediately impressed by how Mr. Parshall presented himself and the sincerity of his message of wanting to realize his dream of being able to have an acre of land after he graduated college. He said that he hadn't even intended to speak or even known what was on the agenda, but that it seemed like the proposed Update was going to make that dream impossible. When I glanced over at the note taker, I saw that he had completely quit taking notes. Neither Mr. Parshall's name nor his remarks had been documented. The previous speaker's name was Diane and spoke on behalf of Healthy Humboldt. Her remarks were recorded fairly in depth.

After Mr. Parshall spoke, a man with the first name of Dan spoke about the quality of life in areas like Fortuna and Hydesville. He stated that living outside of the city was important as it was a quality of life issue for Humboldt residents to be able to live in areas where they can have land and neighbors which they know - as opposed to living in increased density areas in the city where people don't even know their neighbors. I noticed that all the note taker had scribed was that "Dan" (no last name) had supported sprawl or development. After "Dan" spoke, Mark Lovelace spoke and the note taker recorded his full name and documented a fairly concise summary of his

March 19, 2007

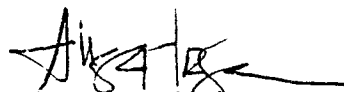
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remarks.

Because I did not know whether or not there was a tape of the proceedings being made or if the person scribing the public comments would be checking a tape for accuracy and correct the record, I contacted the only other person I knew in the room. This person then went to speak to the man scribing the audiences remarks. The note taker then backed up and added a box with the name of "Hans," but, I never saw him add any of the remarks. I can only hope that they will be accurately added later and that the person named "Dave" will have his remarks more accurately recorded.

Only because I was so impressed by Mr. Parshall's remarks, I looked at the record and it was noticeable to me that the comments were conspicuously missing from the written record. It troubles me that other speaker's comments may also be possibly missing from the record. Is there any mechanism in effect to make sure everyone's comments will, in fact, be in the written record and that they will be summarized accurately? Who was the person who was memorializing the public's comments? If he does not have the specific skills to accurately document the public's input, perhaps the Commission would be benefitted in obtaining a person who is more skillful and accurate at documenting the public's input regarding the General Plan Update. In any event, is there any mechanism in place to insure that the written record accurately and fully describes the public's remarks? Will this record and future records be checked for accuracy? Even if there is a tape of the proceedings, it is my experience that most persons will rely upon the written record and not request a tape nor transcribe it. If the written record is inaccurate for any reason, then the statements of members of the public who are either missing from the record or inaccurately summarized will be lost for those who in the future may rely on this record.

Sincerely,



Allison G. Jackson

AGJ/aj

cc: Planning Commission members

Bruce Emad,  
Scott Kelly  
Sef Murguia,  
Richard Hansis,  
Jeff Smith,  
Mary Gearheart