

Public Comment -- 1/31/24 PC Mtg., Item No. 7A, Officers

Jacob Patterson <jacob.patterson.esq@gmail.com>

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To:cdd <cdd@fortbragg.com>

Planning Commission,

Regardless of who you select as Chair this time, I recommend additional training on how to preside over a meeting. The past few years have involved many errors, some of which are serious enough that the PC's decisions could have been overturned on procedural grounds, because the Chair or acting Chair failed to follow proper meeting procedure for action items. For example, you have not "established proper notice" as the County does for their planning commission public hearings and some of our public hearing items have not actually had the required public notice. Another issue is the failure of the chair to properly open and close some public hearings. In fact, you have tried to continue items to a meeting after the hearing was closed without reopening it, which is not a best practice unless all you plan on doing is continuing your deliberations without bringing any additional information into the mix at the continued meeting (or in between the meetings, which would need to be disclosed). You have also failed to solicit public comment for some action items, including failing to solicit public comment for consent calendar items that are pulled from the consent calendar and discussed. Every action item requires a public comment period prior to taking the action and pulled items need a separate public comment period even if the entire consent calendar had already received public comments.

I have no clear preference for who your officers are but I think Scott Deitz is probably your best bet to assure that proper procedure is followed based on his prior experience on the Planning Commission and City Council. Regardless of the choices, I recommend comprehensive training.

Regards,

--Jacob