

**Public Comments**  
**Study Session –**  
**Open Space & Parkland Advisory**  
**Committee Charter**

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 08/28/2023



*August 28, 2023*  
*City Council Meeting*

---

**From:** Suzanne Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 8:59 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** 5:30 Study Session - review of OSPAC (Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee) Charter.

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Honorable council members and city staff,  
I support an expanded role of OSPAC which could increase public awareness of proposals, promote a collaboration between the public and developers, and save the planning commission/planning department time through pre-evaluation and early mitigation of development proposals. I have been listening to opinions of folks in the community more knowledgeable than I, and I find their suggestions very appealing. It appears OSPAC functions were different in the past.

" By appearing before the Open Space Committee (usually BEFORE the application was deemed complete by the Planning Department) developers were able, in a fairly informal setting, to learn what problems the proposed development might face when it went into formal hearings, and, if appropriate, to address those issues before the application was considered by the decision makers (i.e. Planning Commission/City Council). Appearing before the OSC also showed the developer really cared what the community thinks. Appearing before the OSC was also FREE, thereby gaining community feedback with no cost. So, if handled correctly, such an appearance could be a benefit to the developer. And, of course, because projects that were reviewed by the OSC (assuming the developer appeared in good faith) ended up being improved (in most cases) it also benefited the City."

I think a return to past functions can benefit our community. Thank you.

--

**Suzanne Moore**  
[REDACTED]

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.**

---

**From:** Summer Lee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:24 AM  
**To:** Public Comment; \_City Council; citycouncil@ci.pacifica.us; Kenyon, Michelle  
**Subject:** Tonight's hearing on items OSPAC Charter and official meeting minutes

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Dear City Council and Staff,

I am asking City Council, particularly Mayor Bygstryck, to reconsider your roles as representatives of those who elected you, the residents of Pacifica whom you represent. As you know well, the blessing of being an American is that our government is of the people, by the people, for the people. It is NOT TO REPRESENT CITY STAFF or ADVOCATE FOR CITY STAFF'S POSITION. We elected you to communicate and empower the will of us, your constituents, to city staff to create the Pacifica that your constituents want to live in, as diverse as those perspectives might be.

City planning is a needlessly hot mess, riddled with community malcontent, developer disdain, intensive appeals, lawsuits, etc. One real and easy solution is to have a developer present their development EARLY ON to OSPAC, as was practice years ago, where plans are discussed at a conceptual level to the community way before more costly detailed plans get baked in. By the time the application is closed and heard at planning commission the developer is not going to want to make substantial changes and the community is caught unaware and feels blindsided and voila there is a costly and adversarial dynamic. This results in even more work for the planning department now fielding letters and complaints — and now using tax-payer-paid legal hours to defend against hypothetical lawsuits.

OSPAC meetings are the place where builders should directly present to the public and where public and OSPAC members ask high level questions about impact on open space, wildlife corridors, fire risks, etc. And the developer gets to know the community it is dropping into. Developers, if they are good and smart, WANT to meet with the community to show off their plans and understand what the community response would be.

Woodside, as well as many other jurisdictions, do something similar:

Environment: Open Space, Conservation &  
Sustainability Committee | Town of  
Woodside California  
[woodsidetown.org](http://woodsidetown.org)



- 1) OSPAC should be able to review developments that have HPD overlays, as well as developments that are adjacent to them bc of potential cumulative impacts.
- 2) One easy ask is that the City is required to inform OSPAC when an application is opened on a property in the OSPAC manual and is HPD according to the new General Plan.
- 3) Finally, OSPAC meetings should have zoom option for the public — no brainer!

Of course city staff doesn't want more review by the public in line with their pervasive pattern of shunting off public/community input. It is also re-raising the boogeyman of state requirements which have not come to fruition, only when convenient for staff agenda. **In fact, since the City is self-certifying its Housing Element, it becomes hypocritical and unethical to then feign and propagate fear of state mandates.**

In recent years, City Staff has gutted OSPAC, claiming there are legal issues, but are never clear what those are, nor giving OSPAC a way to work within the supposed legal risks.

There are no legal risks if the developers' presentation to OSPAC is voluntary (but highly encouraged). Indeed, If the application is still open SB330 doesn't apply (as was rumored to be). The City will say it is more work for city staff, when in

fact developers themselves will come and do the slide show presentation of their project. City staff, if understanding how it saves them time and work later on, could be so effective as to present the project to the community early if a developer turns down the invitation to do so. Wouldn't City Staff like to also be aware of the issues facing a new development earlier rather than later?

They say no other committee has zoom alternative — well why can't they all?

OSPAC review of HPD projects is a WIN-WIN SOLUTION for Pacifica.

Council will also hear the issue of going to summary minutes, and discuss relying on PCTV video for documentation, which has no legal standards or accountability to the City. It is clear to those paying attention, that the City push to do this is all to shelter the city from lawsuit risks, in the sheep's clothing of saving money and work. **There are cheap AI transcription services that could be used.** Pacifica could honor transparency and process for citizens. Summary minutes are often left to outside people knowing little to nothing about Pacifica and issues to decide what should be included. Just because other jurisdictions do it differently doesn't mean Pacifica should do it too.

Thank you for considering this perspective,  
Summer Lee

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

---

**From:** Lori Yap [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:47 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** \_City Council  
**Subject:** Study Session - OSPAC on 08-28-2023

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

After reading through the materials presented in the Agenda Packet, this email is **in support of OSPAC's request**. Having OSPAC review development projects in regards to open space and HPD sites with opportunities for community input in the early stages would provide more transparency and communication with the public and foster community engagement. It seems that community engagement usually happens after a development project is further along in the process and the public wonders why they did not know about it sooner. When this happens, people sometimes assume that something is being pushed through without the public being informed. I assume the developers feel attacked at this late stage and likely become more litigious.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Lori Yap

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

---

**From:** Sue Digre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:53 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Council item OP space And item 5

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

What was done in the past for years including under PI Director Crabtree worked great.  
The Pacifica Community has a character. Open Space is very respected, desired and also substance for appropriate revenue generation.

Honor the traditions and characters of this Pacifica Community. The Open Space is integrated into the tradition of honoring each of our neighborhoods.  
The voices of the residents should be more valuable than paid consultants or dictatorship from Electeds in Sacramento.  
Full meetings minutes are integral to such public meetings to ensure transparency and full accountability.  
Honor the Pacificans.

5  
Only full Minutes are worthy of the Public that lives here.  
It empowers the voters who live here. Honor our residents.

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.**

**Public Comments**  
**Agenda Item 5 –**  
**Meeting Minutes Format**

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 08/28/2023



*August 28, 2023*  
*City Council Meeting*

---

**From:** Summer Lee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:24 AM  
**To:** Public Comment; \_City Council; citycouncil@ci.pacifica.us; Kenyon, Michelle  
**Subject:** Tonight's hearing on items OSPAC Charter and official meeting minutes

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Dear City Council and Staff,

I am asking City Council, particularly Mayor Bygstryck, to reconsider your roles as representatives of those who elected you, the residents of Pacifica whom you represent. As you know well, the blessing of being an American is that our government is of the people, by the people, for the people. It is NOT TO REPRESENT CITY STAFF or ADVOCATE FOR CITY STAFF'S POSITION. We elected you to communicate and empower the will of us, your constituents, to city staff to create the Pacifica that your constituents want to live in, as diverse as those perspectives might be.

City planning is a needlessly hot mess, riddled with community malcontent, developer disdain, intensive appeals, lawsuits, etc. One real and easy solution is to have a developer present their development EARLY ON to OSPAC, as was practice years ago, where plans are discussed at a conceptual level to the community way before more costly detailed plans get baked in. By the time the application is closed and heard at planning commission the developer is not going to want to make substantial changes and the community is caught unaware and feels blindsided and voila there is a costly and adversarial dynamic. This results in even more work for the planning department now fielding letters and complaints — and now using tax-payer-paid legal hours to defend against hypothetical lawsuits.

OSPAC meetings are the place where builders should directly present to the public and where public and OSPAC members ask high level questions about impact on open space, wildlife corridors, fire risks, etc. And the developer gets to know the community it is dropping into. Developers, if they are good and smart, WANT to meet with the community to show off their plans and understand what the community response would be.

Woodside, as well as many other jurisdictions, do something similar:

Environment: Open Space, Conservation &  
Sustainability Committee | Town of  
Woodside California  
[woodsidetown.org](http://woodsidetown.org)



- 1) OSPAC should be able to review developments that have HPD overlays, as well as developments that are adjacent to them bc of potential cumulative impacts.
- 2) One easy ask is that the City is required to inform OSPAC when an application is opened on a property in the OSPAC manual and is HPD according to the new General Plan.
- 3) Finally, OSPAC meetings should have zoom option for the public — no brainer!

Of course city staff doesn't want more review by the public in line with their pervasive pattern of shunting off public/community input. It is also re-raising the boogeyman of state requirements which have not come to fruition, only when convenient for staff agenda. **In fact, since the City is self-certifying its Housing Element, it becomes hypocritical and unethical to then feign and propagate fear of state mandates.**

In recent years, City Staff has gutted OSPAC, claiming there are legal issues, but are never clear what those are, nor giving OSPAC a way to work within the supposed legal risks.

There are no legal risks if the developers' presentation to OSPAC is voluntary (but highly encouraged). Indeed, If the application is still open SB330 doesn't apply (as was rumored to be). The City will say it is more work for city staff, when in



fact developers themselves will come and do the slide show presentation of their project. City staff, if understanding how it saves them time and work later on, could be so effective as to present the project to the community early if a developer turns down the invitation to do so. Wouldn't City Staff like to also be aware of the issues facing a new development earlier rather than later?

They say no other committee has zoom alternative — well why can't they all?

OSPAC review of HPD projects is a WIN-WIN SOLUTION for Pacifica.

Council will also hear the issue of going to summary minutes, and discuss relying on PCTV video for documentation, which has no legal standards or accountability to the City. It is clear to those paying attention, that the City push to do this is all to shelter the city from lawsuit risks, in the sheep's clothing of saving money and work. **There are cheap AI transcription services that could be used.** Pacifica could honor transparency and process for citizens. Summary minutes are often left to outside people knowing little to nothing about Pacifica and issues to decide what should be included. Just because other jurisdictions do it differently doesn't mean Pacifica should do it too.

Thank you for considering this perspective,  
Summer Lee

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

---

**From:** Sue Digre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:53 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Council item OP space And item 5

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

What was done in the past for years including under PI Director Crabtree worked great.  
The Pacifica Community has a character. Open Space is very respected, desired and also substance for appropriate revenue generation.

Honor the traditions and characters of this Pacifica Community. The Open Space is integrated into the tradition of honoring each of our neighborhoods.  
The voices of the residents should be more valuable than paid consultants or dictatorship from Electeds in Sacramento.  
Full meetings minutes are integral to such public meetings to ensure transparency and full accountability.  
Honor the Pacificans.

5  
Only full Minutes are worthy of the Public that lives here.  
It empowers the voters who live here. Honor our residents.

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.**