

Public Comments

Agenda Item 2



September 13, 2021
City Council Meeting

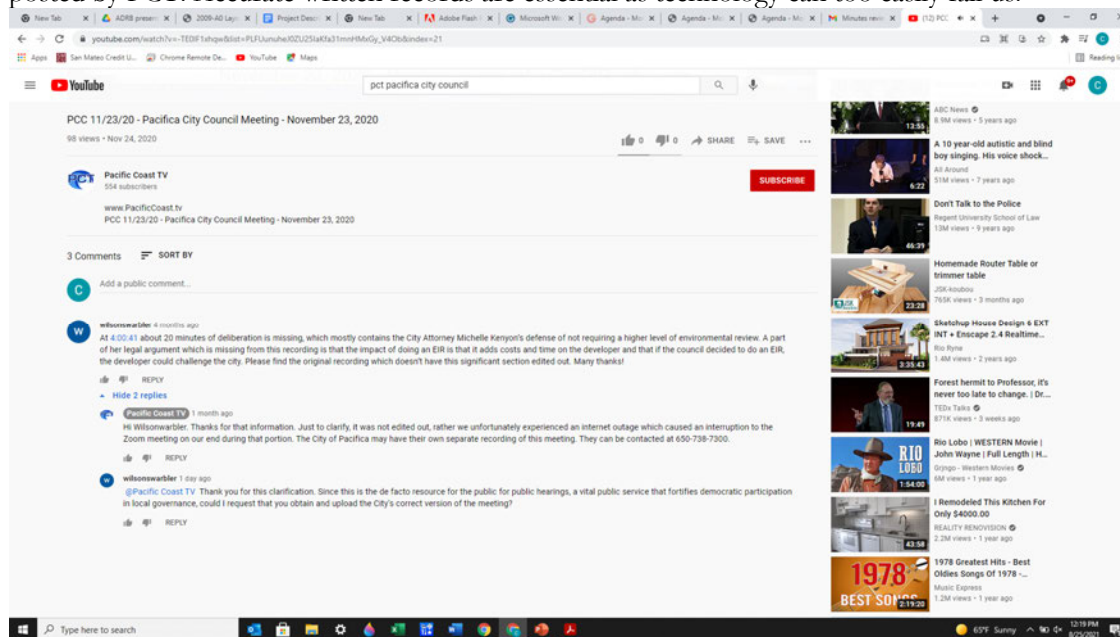
From: Christine Boles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Public Comment; Beckmeyer, Sue; Vaterlaus, Sue; O'Neill, Mike; Bigstyc, Tygarjas; Bier, Mary; Woodhouse, Kevin; Coffey, Sarah
Cc: Dinah Verby; Summer Lee; Richard Campbell
Subject: Council Meeting Minutes of Harmony One/Ohlone Point Appeal

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Council and Staff,

I wanted to thank Commissioner Bigstyc for pulling the minutes from the Consent Agenda at Monday's meeting for discussion. I also want to thank you for supporting a review of the minutes from our appeal hearing. To clarify, I did not ask for a verbatim accounting of what was said. Some things are totally missing from the written record, however, like my HPD arguments about the project as approved by the Planning Commission not complying with the ordinance. This is the main reason I filed the appeal and did all this work with the applicant in the first place and it greatly upsets me that it was left out. These were not just a few words, but the main section of my presentation. This part of the appeal presentation is testimonial, not just an informal comment, and it should be accurately portrayed in the official records of the meeting.

As an example of the critical importance of accurate factual written records of public meetings, you might be aware that 20 minutes of the video recording of our Vista Mar appeal hearing on November 23, 2020 are missing from the online recording posted by PCT. Accurate written records are essential as technology can too easily fail us.



Thank you,

Christine Boles, Architect

Beausoleil Architects

[REDACTED]

Pacifica, CA 94044

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” - Desmond Tutu

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Public Comments

Oral Communications



September 13, 2021
City Council Meeting

From: Clif Lawrence [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:45 AM
To: Public Comment; publiccomment@pacificafica.gov
Subject: Please include in RECORD for OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT - Sept 13, 2021 - City Council Meeting - Thank you.

[CAUTION: External Email]

The following are my own thoughts and reflections:

Within the last several months I have begun to hear more repeated references to Hillside Prevention District (HPD).

We have heard multiple requests for an open Discussion of “HPD” between the public and the City Planning Staff. It seems there are different viewpoints on the interpretation of HPD. The City Planning Department response to this request was that it would divert their resources/efforts/time from their primary tasks, at a time when they are already over-tasked. [my words]

So I began my own inquiry.

First, I found that “HPD” is a City Ordinance, originally codified in 1972, and updated in 1975.

Article 22.5. – Hillside Prevention District (HPD)

Sec. 9-4.2250 – Sec. 9-4.2259

Approximately 7 printed pages

More recently I have learned that the City Planning Department has posted on its website a “Fact Sheet” on the topic of “HPD”.

I wish to thank the “unknown” author of that Fact Sheet for their efforts to clarify a subject of growing general concern. But I do not know who the author is, or how long it took to produce it. On the surface, it would appear to be the result of some considerable effort.

But what and/or who were the sources of background to produce this “Fact Sheet”? Was it solely the Ordinance as amended? Then would this “Fact Sheet” be properly identified as an “interpretation” of the amended ordinance? Whose interpretation is this? Is it an interpretation by anyone who was part of its creation?

Given the dates of the HPD Ordinance, is there anyone today in the Planning Department who was involved in the originating process in 1972 and 1975? Who is in the Planning Department who was here 46 years ago? Likewise, is there anyone on City Council or Planning Commission who was involved 46 years ago? Is there anyone in our community today who was a part of the effort to create the “HPD”? There just might be. But at this point it appears to me that whoever those people are, they are probably not still engaged by the City or among its elected or appointed personnel.

Has the "Fact Sheet" resolved the question of the meaning and ramifications of the HPD Ordinance? Has it? Or are there still some questions in our community about the interpretation? It appears to me that there may still be some additional insights that have not yet been openly addressed. Is that possible? If that is possible, why should we not open a forum to bring forth a fuller discussion of the meaning and intent of those community efforts almost a half century ago? Is there resistance to such an idea? If so, why is there resistance?

My Civics education is possibly out of date, but is not the Council in this case the "legislative" component? Is the City Manager and Planning Department part of the "executive" function?

If they are part of the "executive" function, are they also presenting themselves in the role of the "interpretive" function?

I am not wanting this to be a court case in order to get a proper interpretation. But it would seem the "Fact Sheet" of unknown origins is intended to unilaterally resolve those community questions. It would seem the public is being told, the City has resolved these questions by fiat.

There are many other questions which will be coming forth, in the near future, I fear. How will they be addressed? What is the future of the role of public input? What message are we sending to the citizenry? Should the public have a role to influence our local government? Or should that be left to unelected entities outside our community? Should we not prefer Pacifica to be "for" and "by" Pacificans?

Thank you for your time and attention.

Clifford Lawrence

West Fairmont District

██████████ Pacifica, CA 94044

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