

>>> "Maryeileen Flanagan" <RainfireStables@msn.com> 8/24/2008 6:25 PM >>>
Dear David,

I am reading through the current draft--probably the "final draft"-- of the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan and want to be sure you, as the only supervisor running for re-election is aware of some frustratingly UNTRUE assertions which form the cornerstone of the entire plan. Basically, having participated in almost every level of the plan, I feel STRONGLY that it is fraudulent and based on purposely skewed data.

I was in attendance at the many of the meetings, in particular the Design Charrettes which resulted in the future land use maps.

Please know that after having spent more than twenty years in the classroom, I know very well how to structure an activity to achieve the desired outcome while making the students (participants) appear--even FEEL-- as though they were the ones who came up with the ideas. That is exactly what these charrettes were: PHONY THROUGH AND THROUGH!

Here are just a FEW examples of what I mean.

1. We were told that we must develop the maps in a particular order and were restrained from developing the maps as WE wanted to (at least in my group; from conversations with others in various groups it worked the same way for them).

2. We were given PRE ORDAINED "tags" to use to state what type of growth we wanted in various areas. The "rural" designation was RIDICULOUS. I do not recall the exact number of house per acre, for "rural" but it was more than one! That is so NOT rural I actually turned my tags over and noted that our designation would be 3.3 houses per acre. My group CHEERED! Unfortunately, other groups did not think to do the same thing although their participants later stated they wished they'd thought to make similar changes.

3. Areas which are currently rural (and strongly WISH TO STAY RURAL) but are already within "planned boundary expansions" of nearby cities were simply swept under the radar in the development of these maps. I live in an area that borders a rather extensive 3.3 acre community but was told that "all that would be re-zoned as Maricopa wishes" once it is "inevitably" annexed. Hello? We're county land now and developments are being put in all around us. Without the ability to TELL the county how we feel, that will simply continue-- and no one seems to have asked Maricopa how THEY feel about the developments EITHER!

Once the Design Charrettes ... Design Charades?... were finished, all future planning seemed predicated on their forced and flawed outcomes.

To say that "county residents' input" is a part of the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan is a blatant misrepresentation. I honestly feel it is one of the biggest lies in local government with which I have had to contend in many years. It makes all other statements of participation (cities, tribal governments, etcetera) equally suspect. With the one exception, the other meetings I attended (except the meeting in a box-- I sent you a copy of that VERY ANGRY result--and it was ignored as an "anomaly") were no more than sit-down lectures where resident input was relegated to an "You should

have been involved in the process earlier; this is based on input from others who 'cared' and if you don't like it, it's too late to change now...." attitude. In fact, I recall one resident actually being told that it was too late to change what they found objectionable during a meeting at the Senior Center in Casa Grande!

I sincerely hope that you will take a long and hard look at the realities I'm trying to impart to you. This is an election year and the participants in this plan know the truth. This, coupled with the zoning fiasco, will be remembered and is being discussed at luncheons, casual encounters, and wherever people "talk politics." It is NOT positive for the "powers that be," you among them.

Please, please, please be proactive about this problem. Do NOT believe everything those who have a high stakes investment in this plan are telling you! Listen to the people who know what REALLY happened. Make some phone calls to other participants! Find out if people TRULY feel "vested" and "honestly represented" by the plan. Ask the leaders of various cities if they TRULY HAD INPUT that was HONESTLY REFLECTED in the plan. Then, make your constituents proud to support your reelection and STAND UP TO THIS FRAUD!

Sure, it may cost us more tax dollars to do this right, but isn't it worth it to GET IT RIGHT? This company apparently knew what outcome they wanted before they ever started and they manipulated everyone involved to get what appeared to be validation for that outcome. Let's start with a clean slate and find out what the citizens REALLY want! Our county's future is too important to do anything less.

Please. I want to feel I can vote for you, but this document... at least so far... really sticks in my craw!

Thank you.

--Maryeileen Flanagan

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