

From: joe symons
To: [DL - Council](#); [Comp Plan Update](#)
Cc: [Sandi Friel](#); [Ann Beck-Witte](#); [fred klein](#); [stephanie Buffum](#); [Jan Alderton](#); [Stephanie Buffum](#)
Subject: New CP guidelines / SUSTAINING PLACES: BEST PRACTICES FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLANS
Date: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 12:22:22 PM
Attachments: [Sustaining Places- best practices for CP book.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

I bring to your attention that the update/revision to the SJC comprehensive plan should take a systems approach rather than separate elements. The attached document says that breaking the whole into parts was the “old” way of doing Comp Plans. It also says the CP needs to be visual, engaging, easy to understand, and gone is the old standard that CPs are just dense text documents. The guidelines also stress the importance of accountability and measurable metrics.

I would add to this last idea that there are extremely important qualities that are not easily measured but often represent the essence of why people love and want to preserve these islands. We need to define these qualities and craft reasonable methods for measuring them (something like the Gross National Happiness index for the country of Bhutan) so we can track whether we are increasing or decreasing these qualities.

I remind you again of the Planning Commission request I made in 2001 and their unanimous finding that what is stated in this APA best practices guidebook is what was asked for, recommended, and ignored.

I encourage you to revive that finding and find some way, through county resources and/or grants, to implement it. Island Stewards is a federal 501(c)(3) non-profit that could help participate in raising and distributing funds (via, for example, a public-private partnership board analogous to, tho clearly with different time frames and mission than, the Land Bank) to be used exclusively for building the comp plan according to these best practices guidelines.

Joe Symons