

Adam Zack

From: Liz Lafferty <lizzilaff@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Comp Plan Comments
Attachments: Comp Plan Comments .pdf

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Dear Commissioners,

With respect for the on-going work on the Comprehensive Plan, our group, Community Rights San Juan Islands, is reviewing the vision statement in light of the impacts of Covid-19 and what has been revealed in the past 5 months. Attached is a brief letter describing our motivations. We will be submitting our proposed changes in September. We look forward to working with you.

Liz Lafferty
(360) 298-2412

In a World Where You Can Be Anything. . . Be Kind!!

"I will rally to the power of love, demonstrate for the strength of kindness, stand for the joy of community, and speak only in the language of unity." My Moving Forward Mantra, LizziLaff



To: SJC Planning Commissioners and Council Members
From: Community Rights San Juan Islands
Date: August 18, 2020
Subject: Comp Plan Comments

Submitted via email: compplancomments@sanjuanco.com

We have great respect and appreciation for all the years of effort that individuals and groups have already put into drafting a thoughtful Comprehensive Plan. But that draft was written before the pandemic altered our lives. Things are different now. Before the pandemic, one set of truths informed and guided us. We could not know what we did not know. Now, we understand that many of our most foundational beliefs miss the mark, harm large numbers of people, and imperil species. As this pandemic continues to upend everything, we must rethink the guiding language of our vision statement. We believe the language of the Comp Plan must reflect the lessons of this time.

In the enforced slow-down of Covid-19, the privilege of being able to call this place ‘home’ has never been more clear. We have experienced the shared vulnerability of our food supply, medical care, and our economic fragility. We have come to understand what we call ‘rural character’ is more than a mere aesthetic value, it is a lived relationship. We now know the importance of our forests for all they provide beyond the value of timber taken, as they are protectors of vital water cycles and home to many, many species. The interrelationship of orca, salmon and eel grass has become visible. If we care deeply about the orca, we must care deeply about eelgrass and the communities of forage fish that live there.

Now is the time to be courageous, to be bold. Let us ask “What could possibly go right, not wrong, but what can go right?” What must go right to carry us forward to 2036. With respect and civility we must take what we are learning and apply it to the Comprehensive Plan. Our future depends on our ability to learn from history, adapt to the present, and to boldly plan for what lies ahead. For our grandchildren and theirs, let us envision and plan for what can and must go right.

A growing number of community groups are working on changes we believe must be included in the Vision statement. In September we will send you a draft of our proposed changes and rationale for suggesting them. In the meantime, we welcome your questions and look forward to working together.

Respectfully,
Chom Greacen, Julienne Battalia, Kai Sanburn, Liz Lafferty