

Subject Line - NVCAP Still Not Working - Public Disappointed, Excluded from Discussion

cc: City Council, Ed Shikada, Jonathan Lait, Price and Weekly, Gail and Angela

Dear Rachel, Chitra, and NVCAP members:

I write to register my continued disaffection with the NVCAP process as staff continues to curtail the ability of the public and working group members to participate:

1. Why were public comments scheduled only at the end of the last meeting? Many of my neighbors attended, planning to speak, but one by one other obligations took them away. I was the last person left and felt bitter disappointment that we lost their voices. In contrast, the XCAP permits ample public participation, eliciting comments before and after meetings,
2. The ongoing silencing of the voices of the working group is also disconcerting. Each of the working group members/teams that had their own designs were only given a few minutes to present their reports. Often in city meetings when staff or consultants present, they get twenty minutes or more to put forward and explain their ideas. The working group members got a fraction of that time.
3. Furthermore, the working group members were limited in their time to respond to each proposal. There was no opportunity for back and forth discussion by working group members. In contrast, the XCAP meetings allow ample time for lively discussions with very little input from staff.
4. So much money was spent on consultants and their misguided proposals that we are getting low on funds just as the working group members are getting a chance to hear from one another in a meaningful way.

In conclusion, you may be in a hurry to button up NVCAP so you can submit your "bill" to the funders, but we have been given an extension to complete the process. With the money left to us, let's emulate XCAP and maximize discussion with minimum input from staff. That saves staff time and money.

Please allow NVCAP to function as a platform for thoughtful deliberation of what the community needs in the plan area.

Sincerely,

Becky Sanders

Moderator, Ventura Neighborhood Association