

Lisa Brown

From: Sandi Friel <sandi@rockisland.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 1:43 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Proposed Vision Statement Amendments

Dear SJC staff, councilors and planning commission:

First, let me tell you I was thrilled to see the changes made in the vision statement! I thought you all did a great job of incorporating the citizens preferences and concerns.

Here are my suggestions:

Consider changing the order for a more logical flow from section to section, such as:

EXISTING ORDER	PROPOSED ORDER
Community	Community
Basic Human Needs	Natural Environment
Education	Basic Human Needs
Economy	Housing
Natural Environment	Education
Land Use	Arts, Culture and Recreation
Transportation	Heritage and Historic Preservation
Energy and Resources	Economy
Arts, Culture and Recreation	Land Use
Heritage and Historic Preservation	Energy and Resources
Governance	Climate Change
Housing	Transportation
Climate Change	Governance

PAGE 3, LINE 5 PREAMBLE “...our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands ~~in~~ 2020 A.D. to preserve that which we hold so dear.

EXPLANATION: Though the vision statement is included in a comprehensive plan that has a mandated 2036 planning horizon, I think the community’s vision surpasses this timeframe without an end date, to last for all time (though it can be tweaked at any time in the future).

A.D. (*anno Domini*) is Medieval Latin and means "in the year of the Lord." (Note: Traditionally it appears before the year, not after.) Since it refers specifically to the birth of Jesus Christ, it is not appropriate for a vision statement that represents the wishes of a multi-denominational and non-denominational community.

PAGE 3, LINES 15 & 16 BASIC HUMAN NEEDS: Making a life here is possible for all ~~people~~ residents and is not limited by access to basic human needs.

EXPLANATION: Our islands are very limited in size and resources. We need to determine, recognize and respect the limits by determining carrying capacities for the environment, natural resources, social services and quality of life. It will not be possible for ALL people who may want to make a life here at any time in the future, to do so. Those residents who have already made a life and home here (and those who will in the future successfully make a life and home here) should be able to continue and not be driven off the island due to, for example, over-commitment of water resources, short supply of food, inadequate healthcare, lack of affordable housing, etc.

PAGE 3, LINE 21 ECONOMY: We support a ~~pattern of economic growth and development~~ diverse, resilient and sustainable economy which serves the needs of our community, and which recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands.

EXPLANATION: The quality of our natural environment is our key economic driver in the San Juan Islands and the reason the citizens choose to live here and visitors vacation here. In order to respect the limits of our small islands, we cannot support an open-ended pattern of economic growth and development ad infinitum without negatively impacting our natural environment and quality of life.

Our current Comprehensive Plan Section B, Element 10, Page 3 “Economic Development Element” Section 10.2 Purpose and Background is very clear: “Smart economic development recognizes that prosperity both depends on, and drives quality of life. Sustaining the structure, nature, and diversity of the San Juan County community as it is, will be dependent on maintaining and nurturing a successful economy. The economy in the San Juan Islands is inextricably linked to the environment and sustainability. The county’s future economy is driven by county residents’ vision for the future of the community itself. A strong economy that dovetails with the communities vision will help that community achieve larger goals. Indeed, as the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (now Commerce) has noted, “a community that...preserves its natural features will have an edge when it comes to improving its economy.”

Although the Economy section in the proposed Vision Statement Amendment does make mention of the “natural environment” midway on line 26 and “sustainable development” at the very end on line 30/31, the prominent first line “we support a pattern of economic growth and development” is at odds with the goals and values expressed elsewhere in the vision statement and the Economic Development Element itself.

PAGE 3, LINE 26 ECONOMY: We support and encourage traditional industries including forestry, farming, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the natural environment

on which they depend. Resource lands such as timber and agriculture are conserved and managed to serve the island community, reducing reliance on outside sources.

EXPLANATION: Though this is also addressed in land use, seems like somewhere in economy we should work in a goal to reduce reliance on outside sources for food and materials.

PAGE 4, LINE 16 ENERGY AND RESOURCES: Our community fosters resource and energy conservation. We support renewable energy that reduces our reliance on fossil fuels. Energy independence and the use of innovative low-impact building methods and materials are is encouraged.

PAGE 4 LINE 30 HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION: We encourage preservation of historic sites, ~~heritage,~~ structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all.

EXPLANATION: The word “traditions” in this sentence supports a similar meaning as heritage, and “heritage” is already used appropriately on line 29.

A comma is not required before “and” in a sequence (this also occurs in other areas of the vision statement.)

PAGE 4 LINE 37 GOVERNANCE: Recognizing that we share the Salish Sea with other counties and British Columbia, our elected officials are attuned to activities beyond our county’s borders and take action when needed protect the community’s interest. Our government institutions collaborate with our neighbors to further the region’s goals when they coincide with our own.

PAGE 5 LINE 3 CLIMATE CHANGE: Our island community sets an example with its response to climate change and a bold plan to reduce our county’s reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We proactively address the effects of climate change like sea level rise and drought and mitigate these impacts to our community before they become crises. ~~Our community encourages voluntary efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Preparations to mitigate these affects are made in advance before they become crises. We recognize our world is bigger than our islands and we seek to be part of a regional and global solution.~~

EXPLANATION: We need to do more than respond to inevitable change and encourage voluntary efforts. The vision statement is the place to set our aspirations high!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Friel
Deer Harbor
360-298-5180