

Linda Ann Kuller

From: joe symons <joesymons@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 4:05 PM
To: Comp Plan Update; Lynda Guernsey; Linda Ann Kuller
Cc: Charlie Carver; fred klein; Sandi Friel; Natalie Menacho; dillingham.samantha@gmail.com; Glenn Hendrick; Keara Axelrod
Subject: Proposed Vision Statement Amendments / Governance Section

The following comments are based on the Vision Statement Amendments Draft shown at

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/14382>

I write to propose a change in the **Governance** section of the draft amendment to the Vision Statement pursuant to the CP update process currently underway.

The *existing* **Governance** section, as proposed by the workshop, which includes the proposed modification of the language replacing the word “which” with “that”, is as follows:

We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner that recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.

The modification (an addition) which I propose, is presented here:

We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner that recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner. We recognize and affirm that the Vision Statement is the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan and ensure that our Comprehensive Plan's goals, policies and Unified Development Code accurately and completely reflect the Vision.

Argument for this addition:

The current Vision Statement concludes with a commitment, the first sentence of which reads:

"**AS FORTUNATE CITIZENS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WE COMMIT** ourselves individually and communally to a future for ourselves and our children that reflects this vision."

This commitment obligates us to craft a comprehensive plan and associated legal structure (the UDC) “**that reflects this vision.**”

There is no ambiguity about this commitment.

In addition, page one of the Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan explicitly states:

" **The Vision Statement (Table 1) is the foundation upon which the entire Comprehensive Plan is based**"

see: <http://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1052>

Omitting the suggested sentence renders the importance of the Vision Statement as the flagpole around which the CP and UDC ambiguous. The addition of the sentence confirms and concretizes the importance of the Vision, and reinforces, at the end, the stated commitment in the Preamble. The Draft Amendment shows no changes to the Preamble striking or modifying the word “commitment”.

The proposed amendments to the Vision in the Amendments Draft do not show any modification or removal of this specific concluding two sentence element of the Vision Statement. I note for the record that the Preamble is specifically addressed, but the Commitment, at the end of the Vision, has been inexplicably unreferenced. This omission should be addressed by insuring that the draft Vision Statement include this concluding statement as drafted and part of the original Vision Statement.

I would additionally like to endorse and support the revision suggestions by Charles Carver.

Thank you for your efforts to modify the existing Vision Statement to reflect new realities and public input.

Joe Symons

Olga, WA

Former Chair, Orcas Comprehensive Plan Citizen Committee, appointed by BOCC to rewrite the CP under GMA, 1992-1998.

—

carpe diem