

Jenna's response to Mayor Simmons Planning Commission Appointments and Process:

I want to thank the applicants and community for sticking with us as we learn to work together as a council, and nail down the rules for committee appointments. In all honesty, I am exhausted and frustrated and embarrassed by the process and our actions so far. We made a step forward this afternoon.

An appointment process was put in place last year to address concerns from the community regarding cronyism and the transparency of the mayoral appointment process. The council's discussions over several months last spring and summer regarding the appointment process were both thoughtful and thorough. The process was adopted on Aug 3 of last year.

This process was followed to make the appointments to the PC. The selection committee was appointed, criteria was established and approved by council. The application was posted. And we received 10 applications.

The selection committee reviewed these applications. As a team, the committee produced a list of candidates that **fully met the criteria City Council approved**. Those applicants were Brad Berman, Thomas Cambell, Thomas Christ, Mark Kuestner, and Frank Sequilo. Everyone's applications are currently posted online. The selection committee proceeded to interview these candidates. It was difficult to narrow the list down to 3, but we came up with a slate for appointments.

At the Jan 4 City Council meeting, Planning Commission Chair Karen Yurka presented a slate of candidates for the mayor's appointment. Instead of taking the recommendations under consideration or discussing any concerns before the meeting with the Selection Committee, Mayor Simmons publicly rejected both the candidates and the selection process, for unknown and unspecified reasons.

This past month we have worked hard to revise, more "tweak" the process. We will move to adopt these new rules in our next agenda item tonight.

I've looked over the changes to the original process, these include:

- Added a second counselor to the selection committee
- Agreed to post completed applications to the city's website
- The selection committee will interview all candidates
- A slate of nominees and ranked list of qualified applicants would be presented to the mayor.
- Looking at this I think "these are not significant changes". These tweaks would not change the final decision made by the selection committee regarding the PC appointments.

The mayor acted outside the Aug 3 appointment rules and the newly revised rules we've been working on since the middle of January. She appointed her own slate. The exact opposite of the

intention of the new rule. With the adoption of the revised rules tonight, I hope we add a little peace of mind to our community that this won't happen again. That our mayor will be held accountable to follow the rules.

I continue to ask myself "What is best for this City?" This council has a lot of important work to do. City Hall, the budget, Comp Plan, infrastructure. I do not negate the importance of the appointments to the PC. We just can't be spending our time and resources, tearing down processes that aren't broken. **The outcome of these actions by the mayor so far have been creating a divide in our community where one should not exist.** I hope and expect we will do better moving forward.

Jenna Edginton
Manzanita City Council
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