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Planning Commissioner Dos & Don'ts

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What are the goals, values, principles of all planning commissions as public servants?

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What are the Dos & Don'ts?

- In your groups,
- Considering the goals, values, principles, what are the dos or don'ts (as assigned) for planning commissions and commissioners?
 - Report out.

American Planning Association

“Equity in zoning means that those who write, administer, or enforce zoning regulations take clear steps to avoid or “undo” unfair outcomes and mitigate the unequal ability to participate in or influence all parts of the zoning process.”

Equity in Zoning Policy Guide
February 8, 2023

Equity in Zoning: The Dos

1. Fairness
2. Compassion
3. Respect for others
4. Responsibility
5. Public service
6. Vision

Fairness

- Review applications and make decisions based on the merits of the issues.
- Support the public's right to know and promote meaningful public involvement.
- Promote equity and equality and treat all people, projects and perspectives equitably.

Compassion

- Recognize board's and government's responsibilities to represent all community members regardless of their socio-economic status.
- Consider exceptions to planning policies when there are unintended consequences or undue burdens.
- Realize that some people are intimidated by the public process and try to make their interactions as stress-free as possible.
- Convey the board's care for and commitment to the members of its community.

Respect for Others

- Focus on the merits in discussions, not personalities, character or motivations.
- Gain value from diverse opinions and build consensus.
- Be approachable and open-minded.

Responsibility

- Identify ways in which zoning regulations (drafting, public engagement, application, mapping, and enforcement) can be changed to dismantle the barriers that perpetuate the separation of historically disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, and
- Eliminate those zoning and design regulations that disproportionately burdensome on those communities.

Integrity

- Be truthful with my fellow commissioners, the public and others.
- Be prepared to make unpopular decisions to further the public's interest.
- Credit others' contributions in moving our community's interests forward.
- Excuse myself from decisions when my, or my family's, financial interests may be affected by my agency's actions.

Public Trust

- Remember that planning commissioner's obligation as a public official is to serve the whole community.
- Consider the interests of the entire community in reaching decisions.
- Give full consideration to all aspects of a project, including protection of the environment and the need for affordable housing.
- Promote the efficient use of community resources.
- Balance the fiscal impacts of a project with the government's social and planning goals.

Vision

- Work to ensure that the vision expressed in the plan is one that works to improve the quality of life for all members of the community.
- Be proactive and innovative when setting goals and considering proposals.
- Maintain consistent standards but be sensitive to the need for compromise, thinking outside the box and improving existing systems.

Equity

Process

- All groups have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to improve the quality of their lives.



Outcomes

- Differences in life outcomes cannot be predicted on the basis of race, class, or other dimensions of identity

Building Our Communities

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every heart, there is the power to do it." – **Marianne Williamson**

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – **Coretta Scott King**

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." – **Margaret J. Wheatley**

THANK YOU!!

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