

The Comprehensive Plan and the role of the CATF in this process

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Comprehensive Plan:

The Comprehensive Plan is not a project based on the views and needs of all citizens and taxpayers of the City of Austin.

It is a project for the benefit of special interests, governmental and private, and championed by the COA bureaucracy.

While special interests, such as real estate and banking and legal, and other associated special interests, do play a role in the future of the city, they are not the only players with a stake in this project.

What this city will be doing in the next thirty years is of equal importance to our middle and low income citizens, taxpayers, voters.

In fact, the middle and low income citizens have a much higher stake in Austin's future. These citizens do not cut and run when things don't go their way. They're in it for the long haul.

Conversely, the special interests citizens can pack up their financial portfolios and degrees and move on to greener pastures when this best suits their immediate and future plans.

This "we are special" attitude brought to mind something I experienced while working with the original, citizen run, Austin Tomorrow Program in the early 1970s.

At a Goals Assembly meeting, a member approached me with notice that he was resigning from the assembly because, as this attorney stated, "he didn't see any reason why he should have to sit down with housewives and blue collar workers and discuss the future of Austin - that should be left to the business community."

Regrettably, this entitlement attitude is still prevalent in a city that publicly decries the existence of class distinctions, based on economic and location criteria, but privately believes it has the right to such a distinction.

While this "I am special" attitude" by some members of the business community, continues to blatantly exist in Austin, this time around it is just as blatantly joined at the hip with the COA bureaucracy whose attitude is "WE are in control of this process."

The attitude of the bureaucracy is documented by such utterances as working groups citizens being told by Garner Stoll, in regard to opinions and ideas not espoused by the bureaucracy, that "the direction you're taking in this discussion does not reflect reality."