



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	y		
All members present?		n	Absent: City – Woodhull, Roddy; County – Anders, Smith, Shouse, McKenzie, Wright, Briggs
Members attentive?	y		
Did members appear to have done their “homework?”		n	Few seemed to have read the Chamber's Plan B, although it had been available less than a week.
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	y		
Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?	y		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?		n	There wasn't much of an agenda. They listened to those who signed up to speak then tried to figure out how to proceed.
Adequate opportunity for public input?	y		
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		n	
Was background information available to the public?		n	Officials had materials from the Chamber that were not publicly available.
Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)	y		

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs?

Yes. The Hillside Plan is consistent with the LWV land use policy. The Chamber’s late submission of an alternate plan raises serious issues about how special interest groups interfere with public processes. Commissioner Norman called their plan a diversion and chided his peers for allowing themselves to be distracted from progress toward a resolution that had been achieved during the facilitated sessions.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues?

Casey Self spoke for the League and several members were in attendance. Additional presence and statements will be necessary in the coming weeks, and the League needs to push for expedient action by City Council before new members are sworn in. The only Council candidates I noticed in the audience were Finbarr Saunders and John Stancil.

Other Concerns: Part of the Chamber's strategy is to blur lines and create confusion. They have attempted to conflate plans with ordinances and MPC duties with engineering department duties. They have muddied and delayed progress toward a resolution. Such efforts would be less successful if both officials and citizens better understood how government operates, underscoring the importance of efforts like the Citizen's Academy.

Observer: Rikki Hall Meeting: Joint Hillside Ridgetop Workshop Date: 9/29/11