

Hi Fred Nelson for Community Comment,  
I would like to thank all of the Humboldt County Planning Commissioners, both past and present, for their diligent work in attempting to make Humboldt County a better place in which to live. I have not always agreed with their suggestions and decisions but I respect them for their dedication as planning committee members. The commissioners have spent a great deal of time attending both regular and many special meetings, time that has come out of their personal lives. The General Plan Update has been in the works for years now. Some people seem to think that any changes in the General Plan are the ultimate responsibility of the Planning Commission. They seem to forget that this is only an advisory group to the County Board of Supervisors who make the ultimate decisions. Lately it appears that the public's attitude toward the commissioners has deteriorated based on what has been said and shown during the periods for public comment and resulting articles in the news media. When a person appears before the commission to express his or her opinion, or make a suggestion, it is not the time or place for vitriol and hostility. Some members of the public have asked the commission to quit suggesting changes and approve the General Plan Update as it is presently written. Just because the GPU has been in flux for fourteen years does not make it correct as presently written. It appears to me that over the years the update has been guided by a liberal leaning group of citizens. Now, the complexion has changed with more conservative citizens expressing their views which clash with what is written in some sections of the General Plan Update, especially the General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Elements chapter. Some property owners, both private and business, have shown concern over possible loss of some of their rights if the writings of the GPU are not changed and are asking that these writings be changed for their protection. Why, you say, after fourteen years of discussion is this problem still alive? Where were these property owners all of this time? Was it the fault of County leadership, both on the Board of Supervisors and in Planning Department Management? Or was it the *laissez faire* attitude of the property owner and/or general public or, all of the above? I sure don't have the answer but my curiosity has been heightened. As for you people who have chosen to malign and cast aspersions on the members of the Planning Commission and the County Board of Supervisors, think again. It reflects a lack of character and ignorance on the part of an adult individual whose back is against the wall when he or she cannot get their own way.

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