



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

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From: [Jim Wing](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 01 Meeting Date 03/28/2023 Los Altos Commission Review
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2023 3:31:01 PM

Los Altos Mayor Meadows and Distinguished Council Members,

Subject: Council 03/28/2023 Study Session, Los Altos Commission Review

As a 55 year “individual contributor customer” to Los Altos Commissions, I recommend you do everything possible to reduce amount of Staff time required for support of commissions. Los Altos needs staff doing their jobs, not spending time preparing commission reports, attending long meetings, and sometimes “baby sitting” meeting discussions. In my opinion, commission’s main function is a public forum to educate Council, staff, and consultants on 24 / 7 dynamics of Los Altos. They also serve as a public comment buffer for Council Members. I understand the many man-months of staff time required to administer commission operation and how that limits staff from doing their main jobs. With that in mind, I recommend you disband / change meeting frequency for the following Commissions:

Disband

- **Senior Commission** – Most meetings appear to be social with rambling conversations. I am sensitive to this, since I am an “old guy”. Ad-hoc committee organized by Senior Center staff may be most efficient way to provide a voice to Council on senior needs
- **Design Commission** – Housing Element requires disbandment and is in process. Meetings often led to neighbors disagreeing with each other and friendships broken.
- **Library Commission** – Los Altos has limited control on what Library does.

Meeting Frequency to every other month

- **Environmental** – Almost all projects are done by ad-hoc committees that use full commission meetings to only review status. No need to review status every month. Most projects require several months of committee work.
- **Youth** – In my opinion, this commission’s main function is youth education for how city government works. Most projects are a work in progress and do not need a meeting every month.
- **Public Arts** – Agendas are mostly general discussions of potential projects with very few action items.
- **Historical** – Many meetings are canceled. Los Altos may have already certified our “stock” of historical / Mills Act homes. Not many homes are left that may qualify.
- **Financial** – Except for deadlines in budget cycle, agendas are light. I attended meeting a couple years ago, and was welcomed because almost no public members ever attend.
- **Complete Streets** – Now that CSMP is done, meetings are basically staff reports on engineering project backlog. Project backlog status could be posted on CSC web page and eliminate oral report. With engineering staff at reduced levels, progress on projects remains the same month to month.

Thank you for your consideration! Jim Wing, Milverton Road, Los Altos, CA

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