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By James Feenan at 3:25 pm, Apr 08, 2024

From: [Liz Helenchild](#)
To: [pbscommissions](#)
Subject: MHRB Meeting and Procedural Changes
Date: Monday, April 8, 2024 3:22:11 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

As a 50+ year resident within walking distance of Mendo Town, I urge you to hit the brakes on the proposed changes.

I agree with those objections of posted so far. For example:

Notice of this radical change in MHRB procedures was not posted widely or timely enough. Outreach reflecting the many modes of communication is received urgently needs updating.

Holding afternoon meetings in Ft Bragg will prevent many working people, also those who do not or cannot drive, from participating.

Loosening requirements for board member residency ensures that control will be remote & out of touch with the on-the-ground realities of the town. Ditto: Ending requirements for in-person site visits by board members. NO to #3.

Not taking/keeping/disseminating physical minutes of each meeting goes against longstanding tradition (if this avoidance of public scrutiny is even legal).

As a taxpayer, I am wonder if Commissioners from Ukiah can oversee meetings virtually rather than physically travel to/from Ft Bragg. I suggest you consider holding regular in-person meetings every other month, or even every 3. Though applicants may have longer waits, I feel that public good trumps individual convenience.

IMO, these "streamlining" proposals add up to administrative Opacity (opposite to Transparency). "Railroading" & "smoke screening" leap to mind.

The only "Request" that makes even partial sense to me may be some of the flexibility proposed in "#1 A balanced approach to regulating." Historically, Mendo town has evolved along with building materials, demographic changes, wider-world events. I am satisfied with the reasonable workarounds & outcome of the Tent issue.

Respectfully,

Liz Helenchild