

[illegible]



10/23/24 Reno Redevelopment Agency Board meeting Item C.2

From Alicia Barber <aliciambarber@gmail.com>

Date Tue 10/22/2024 2:32 PM

To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Dear Mayor Schieve and Councilmembers Brekhus, Duerr, Ebert, Martinez, Reese, and Taylor,

I am writing to oppose the language that staff is proposing to add to the bylaws of the Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board (RAAB) adding specific qualifications or expertise to serve on it.

The proposed language reads "Members should have professional experience or certifications in the fields of transportation, urban planning, architecture, public finance, commercial real estate, landscape architecture, or redevelopment agency experience."

I believe these proposed changes reflect a misunderstanding of the role of the RAAB and would actually detract from rather than add to its strength. This is a **citizen advisory board** tasked with recommending and approving priorities and projects to the Redevelopment Agency Board based on what residents would like to see in the redevelopment areas, and helping to monitor that progress. Their primary role is not to provide technical expertise and review of redevelopment project applications, as these proposed qualifications seem to suggest.

The RAAB convenes whether or not there are formal RDA projects to discuss, and its members represent the citizens' perspective. This requires interactivity and a format for discussion that citizens cannot experience during a Redevelopment Agency Board meeting, when they may only deliver brief, timed comments, not engage in conversation with the Board itself. The RAAB is the body for discussion, when RAAB members can ask City staff to explain certain projects and initiatives to them, and offer input in a focused forum. Ideally the Board (Council) liaison is also in attendance, to participate in those discussions.

Beyond the individual interactions between the RAAB members, staff, the Agency Board (Council) liaison, and any other presenters, this is the meeting where the general public knows they can go to get updates on the latest developments in RDA1 and RDA2. That doesn't happen anywhere else. Redevelopment issues need only be discussed at NAB meetings if there are projects that require review by the Planning Commission and/or City Council, and the way that RDA1 and RDA2 are constituted, their boundaries cross multiple City wards. That's a lot of meetings. The private nonprofit Downtown Reno Partnership does not serve this purpose for the citizenry or the Agency Board, either.

The RAAB is the only citizen board solely devoted to discussing redevelopment in RDA1 and RDA2 and needs to be reconstituted as that central place for discussion of major issues that impact the City's ability to reach its goals in these specific parts of town.

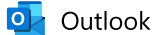
RAAB meetings therefore play an invaluable role not just for the Agency Board but for the general public, reporters, and others trying to keep track of what is occurring in these areas--again, whether those are official RDA projects or not.

When you consider the composition of the RAAB, please think very specifically about what kind of input you are seeking from them and when, and the wide range of issues that would be discussed here, from City and RDA initiatives to DRP activities to the operations of individual businesses. It is the breadth of experience RAAB members hold and their ability to represent a wide spectrum of citizen interests, concerns, and perspectives that makes this board so valuable in discussing all of those issues and **how they are all working together to achieve City and RDA goals**. RAAB members absolutely need to have a passionate interest in Reno's redevelopment but they do not require professional experience and certifications to do so.

For more of my thoughts on the operations of the relaunched Redevelopment Agency, I invite you to read my Brief titled "ALERT: We need to talk about Reno's Redevelopment Agency" at <https://thebarberbrief.substack.com/p/alert-we-need-to-talk-about-renos>

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Alicia Barber, PhD
Resident, Reno Ward 1



RAAB

From Janet Wright <rightinnv@att.net>

Date Tue 10/22/2024 9:16 AM

To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Regarding your agenda item C.2: I am very concerned that this proposal does not retain the necessary public input and participation that I would want from a Redevelopment Board for our city. It puts too much control in the hands of outside consultants and council members without regard for citizens to assure that community priorities are being addressed. I would like to see the RAAB be a true citizen board with these objectives (as outlined by Alicia Barber in her newsletter)

- To provide stakeholder and public oversight of public money.
- To provide the Agency with input from a wide spectrum of perspectives including downtown residents, downtown business owners, and those who downtown wants to attract. Past members included downtown residents, attorneys, people involved in the arts, in the development of the kayak park, and so much more.
- To help avoid possible corruption. The more public eyes, the better.
- To review progress toward achieving redevelopment goals and priorities in the redevelopment areas, not just related to RDA projects but to *all* activity.

Please take the time to reconsider the configuration and role of this important aspect of our city's growth. The expertise needed to evaluate projects should come from qualified personnel but the determination of appropriate uses of funding needs to be overseen by public stakeholders such as a citizen-board would provide. Thank you.

Janet Wright
1296 Conway Lane
Reno, NV 89503

Sent from my iPhone



Regarding Item C.2 Redevelopment Agency Board

From Roslyn Zimmerman <renoroz@nvbell.net>

Date Tue 10/22/2024 12:23 PM

To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

I object to Item C.2 on Oct 23, 2024 Redevelopment Agency Board agenda which would change RAAB'S entire composition and role.

The larger we grow as a city the less it seems we have any input into such important issues.

Roslyn Zimmerman and family
1 and 2 Newlands Circle
Reno 89509